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THE COMIC!
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SONIC UNDERGOES A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION IN
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SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

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GET AN INKLING ON MR. BRYANT'S BOOMING BRUSHWORK!

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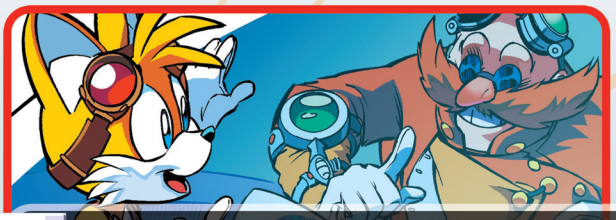
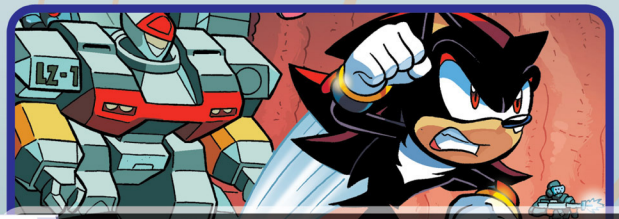
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL



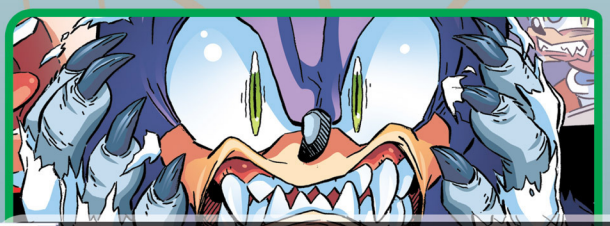
8 GETTING A LITTLE BOULDER

The Big Boom begins here! Join Sonic and his crew as they battle the zany creations of the evil Dr. Eggman, including... a cyborg-possessed house?



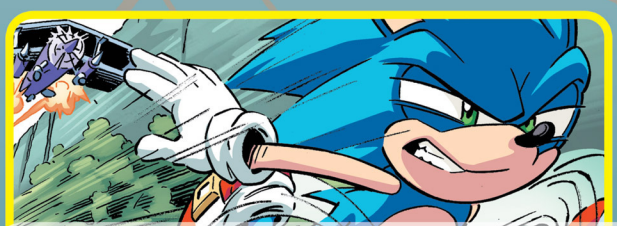
32 INTO THE UNKNOWN

Shadow the Hedgehog thought he had already defeated the evil alien race known as the Black Arms, but now they're back! How can this be?!



56 BREAKING POINT

Something is up with Sonic! The mission to gather the Chaos Emeralds goes awary when a new foe pushes Sonic over the edge of control!



100 THE CHASE: PART ONE

LOOK OUT FOR THE TRAIN! Sonic and the Freedom Fighters have to stop a speeding locomotive before the power to rule the world falls into the hands of Dr. Eggman!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

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SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE

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SONIC GRAMS PRESENTS

HEY KIDS!

WRITE TO US @: SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY MAIL c/o ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC. P.O. BOX # 419 MAMARONECK NY 10543-0419 YOU CAN ALSO WRITE IN VIA E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

LETTERS

Hey, everybody! This issue of the Super Special Magazine is literally BOOMING with goodness! We've got the breakdown for ya on all aspects of the new branch of the Sonic the Hedgehog franchise, Sonic Boom™, including the very first issue of the comic series! But that's not all! We've also got an overiew of the panel at NYCC '14 and plenty of other goodies coming your way! Phew! Now that I got all that out of my system, I say it's high time we dive into the ocean of fan mail!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Hey ya'll!

Hello!

Just wanted to express to you how much I love Jon Gray's interview in Sonic Super Special #12! He writes comics for the same reason I play and write music. Love that guy! Let him know, please?

Your pal,
Zoe K. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the kind words, Zoe! We'll pass 'em along to Mr. Gray!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
My name is Tyler J. and I am writing and to tell you how much I love your Sonic comics and I always know that you guys will make great comic books for 1000 more years!

Hiya, Tyler! That's a long time, but we'll get there I'm sure!

I also really like the fact that you guys are going to have another art contest soon. Hope you guys will read this during the Super Special delivery segment in the Sonic Super Special comics.

Surprise!

I also want to shout out to all of you who make the Sonic comics! I'm talking about Patrick, Evan and yourself and all of the other folks on the creative team. I hope all of you guys keep making great comics and keep making all of us laugh so that when I'm feeling down I'll just pick up one of my favourite issues and have a great day from then on.

SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY

That's so nice of you to say! Thank you so much! We wanna keep bringing happiness to everyone all over the world! Or at the very least, chili dogs!

I also have a question: where has Silver been since the crossover, I haven't seen him at all?

Sincerely Tyler sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thank you for writing to us, Tyler! That's a really good question and I really want to give you the details, but the best I can do for now is to look forward to the future. Silver could be anywhere in the Universe!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
I just read your book, Sonic Archives vol. 0. It was impressive to be in my school!

That's great to hear that your school has our book! I hope there are lots more for you and the other kids in your class to read!

My favorite part was in the story, "Something Fishy." It had the level from the original Sonic the Hedgehog called *Labyrinth Zone.* It was one of the best references from Sonic the Hedgehog ever!

Good catch! That level is a real challenge! Dangerous spikes and water floods, you're lucky to get out of there with all your rings! Now that I think of it, Labyrinth Zone is also referenced in our Sonic Genesis graphic novel! Be sure to check it out! Plugplugplugplugplugplug!

If I could only ask one question, it would be this:

You will have a bite-sized portion of the usual!

Can you make an HD version of the classic comics with modern characters mixed with classic levels please?

Sincerely,
Zavier D. from Vermont

Thanks for the letter, Zavier! We've actually sort of been doing that recently in both Sonic the Hedgehog and Sonic Universe comic book series! The modern characters have been traversing zones from all eras of Sonic! Check 'em out by either going to your local comic shop, (which you can find by going to comicshoplocator.com) or subscribe via the nifty order form in this very magazine! Shameless plugs FTW!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Hey it's me again! I just have so many questions for you guys that I had to write again! Here's the usual:

Someone's on top of things!

If all the other Freedom Fighters still exist, do Lupe and Rosie still exist too? Same goes for other Sonic TV characters like Scratch, Grounder and Coconuts.

Rosie has actually already appeared in the Sonic Comic Origins stories we've been running in both this magazine and the Sonic Super Digest. As for the others I say keep a keen eye out. Particularly in upcoming issues of Sonic the Hedgehog!

Will we see characters from some of the other Sonic TV shows?

We actually just launched an entirely new series based on the all-new Sonic Boom™ TV series and games! For the full scoop, just turn the page! How convenient!

Will we see any new members of the new Freedom Fighters and is Moss a member of the CHAOTIX?

Thanks for being awesome!
signed, Payne
from Canada

Thanks, Payne! Perhaps! I cannot say for now! Moss is not currently a member of the Chaotix, but he'd make a great teammate for sure!

Thank you everyone for your Super Special letters! We'll see all you Sonic Super Special fans next time! Until then, keep reading the comics and write to us at "Super Special Delivery," "Sonic Grams" and "My Sonic Universe" to get your letter in print!

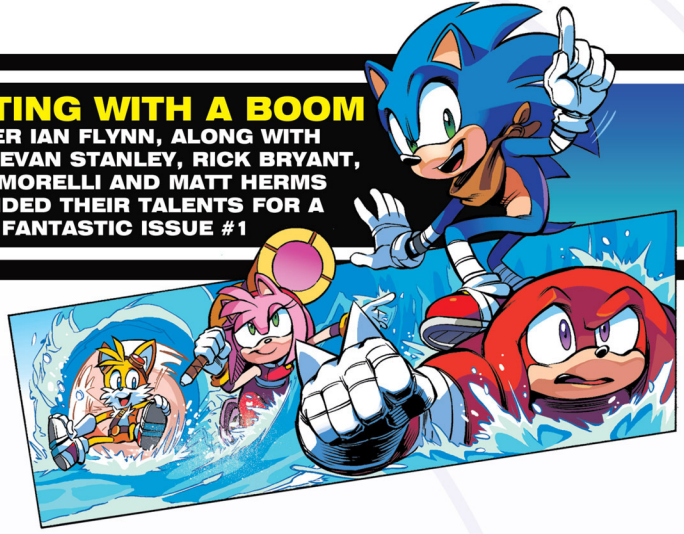
SUPER SHOUT-OUTS

"Hi awesome Sonic comic team!"
~Austin J.
from Australia

"Eclipse and Shadow are my two favorite characters. I cant wait to see what happens to them next!!!!!! See-ya!"
~ Gloria B.
sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

"I'm glad Thunderbolt is a chinchilla! I would like to see her again!"
~ Kate.
sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

"I'd like to say this: these comics are amazing. They are some of the most detailed and action-packed stories you can fit on paper."
~Parker F.
sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com



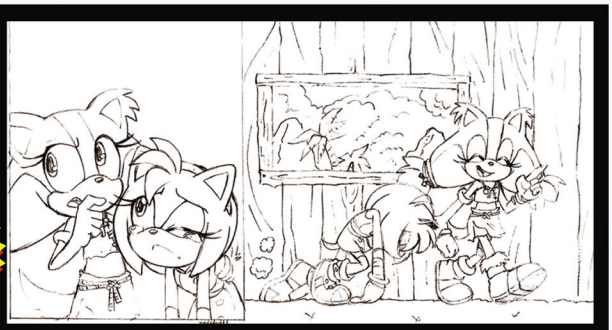
STARTING WITH A BOOM
WRITER IAN FLYNN, ALONG WITH ARTISTS EVAN STANLEY, RICK BRYANT, JACK MORELLI AND MATT HERMS PROVIDED THEIR TALENTS FOR A FANTASTIC ISSUE #1

THE COMIC BOOK

In addition to video games, the TV series, toys and more -- Sonic Boom™ is also the all-new monthly comic book from Archie Action Comics!

Archie Sonic comic writer Ian Flynn is at the helm of the series, dreaming up big stories and even bigger fun for the Sonic Boom comic book. Whereas the Sonic the Hedgehog and Sonic Universe comic book series' lean more towards the action-drama genre, Sonic Boom leans more heavily toward comedy and adventure.

As with the television show, anything goes in this comic book, so look out for unlikely team-ups, sentient screwdrivers, wacky races and Sticks! LOTS AND LOTS OF STICKS! ■



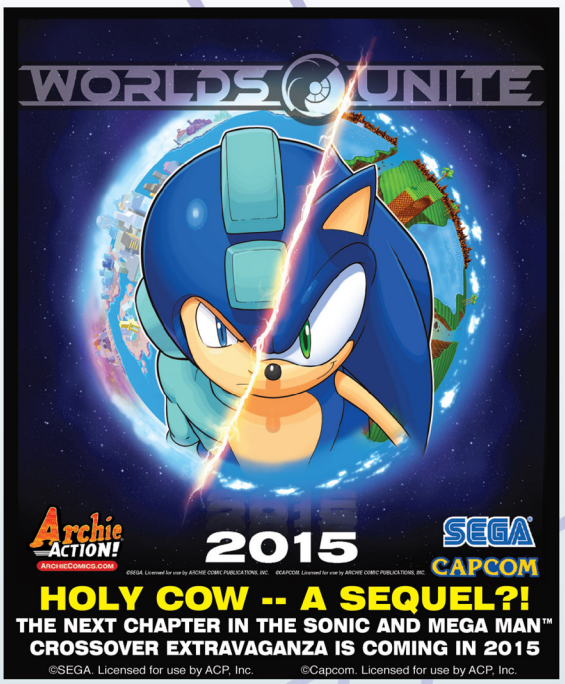
BOOMING THE BOOKS
AN ALL-STAR CAST OF SONIC COMIC ARTISTS ARE SET TO WORK ON SONIC BOOM! HERE'S A SNEAK PREVIEW FROM FROM ISSUE 3 BY PENCILLERS RYAN JAMPOLE & JENNIFER HERNANDEZ!

Archie Action! @ New York Comic Con 2014

PANEL-PALOOZA!

The Archie Action panel started with a real bang as we proudly announced that the Blue Blur and Blue Bomber will be meeting once again in WORLDS UNITE!

The sequel to the wildly epic Sonic and Mega Man™ Worlds Collide crossover will begin in 2015! Although concrete details on the crossover are a closely-guarded secret for now, we can confirm that this crossover will be bigger and better than the first AND will be in-continuity.


WORLDS UNITE
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HOLY COW -- A SEQUEL?!
THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE SONIC AND MEGA MAN™ CROSSOVER EXTRAVAGANZA IS COMING IN 2015
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Springing right off of the big news, we discussed the all-new Sonic Boom comic book series and we were pleasantly surprised to see the glowing reaction to the series and artwork we revealed. Fans were also pleased to get a glimpse of some special production artwork from the future Sonic the Hedgehog storyline: "Champions," which is based in part on the arcade game *Sonic the Fighters*! Appropriately, Honey the Cat will make her debut in the new storyline with a new design to boot! Requests for Honey to appear in the comic have been aplenty, so we delivered!

ARCHIE ACTION CREW
(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) JAMAL PEPPERS, RYAN JAMPOLE, PAUL KAMINSKI, JONATHAN H. GRAY, VINCENT LOVALLO & BEN HUNZEKER

The fans were there to support us in full-force. We were so happy to see everyone and even talk to a handful of you at the Archie booth! We look forward to seeing everyone again next time, and at more conventions next year! ■

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

THE BIG BOOM!

OH, HELLO THERE!

Welcome to **Sonic's** tropical island home! The sun is always shining, the air is always clean, and the neighbors will gladly spot you for a chili dog! (You'd better pay them back by Tuesday, though. That's just common courtesy.)

The island is protected by **Sonic the Hedgehog** and his team of friends including me, **Sticks the Badger** (please hold your applause). Usually the island is peaceful, but there's always the threat of an attack from **Dr. Eggman** (which, in this economy, is what we call "job security").

So sit back, relax, tense up, stand down, sit up, relax (did I say that?) and journey with me to the latest adventure in the land of the **BIG BOOM...**

DID YOU KNOW...

Sonic Boom™ is a separate branch of the Sonic the Hedgehog franchise featuring video games, a TV series and toys! The characters have been redesigned to better pair them to their personalities and traits. This is the second time Sonic and his friends have received redesigns. The last time was for the 1999 video game *Sonic Adventure*!

SONIC
BOOM
1ST ISSUE
SPECIAL PRESENTATION!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PROUDLY PRESENT AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HISTORY! (ALSO PUNCHING! LOTS AND LOTS OF PUNCHING!)
GETTING A LITTLE BOULDER
PART ONE of...er...ONE
HEY, EGGMAN! CAN YOU EVEN SEE ME FROM UP THERE?
GYA-HA-HA-HA!
Oh, I HAVE A SWEET SUITE OF TARGETING SYSTEMS JUST FOR YOU, HEDGE-HOG!
I'M GONNA BURY YOU IN THE SAND--FOREVER!
WOW! WITH THAT GIANT ROBOT, THAT SOUNDS INTIMIDATING--IF ANYBODY OTHER THAN YOU WAS SAYING IT!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, THO'--THE BIGGER THEY ARE...
WRITER-GUY: IAN FLYNN / PENCILLER-GAL: EVAN STANLEY
INKER-DUDE: RICK BRYANT / COLORIN'-FELLA: MATT HERMS
LETTERER-MAN: JACK MORELLI / COVER-ER: PATRICK SPAZIANTE
VARIANT COVER-PEOPLES: STANLEY, BRYANT & HERMS
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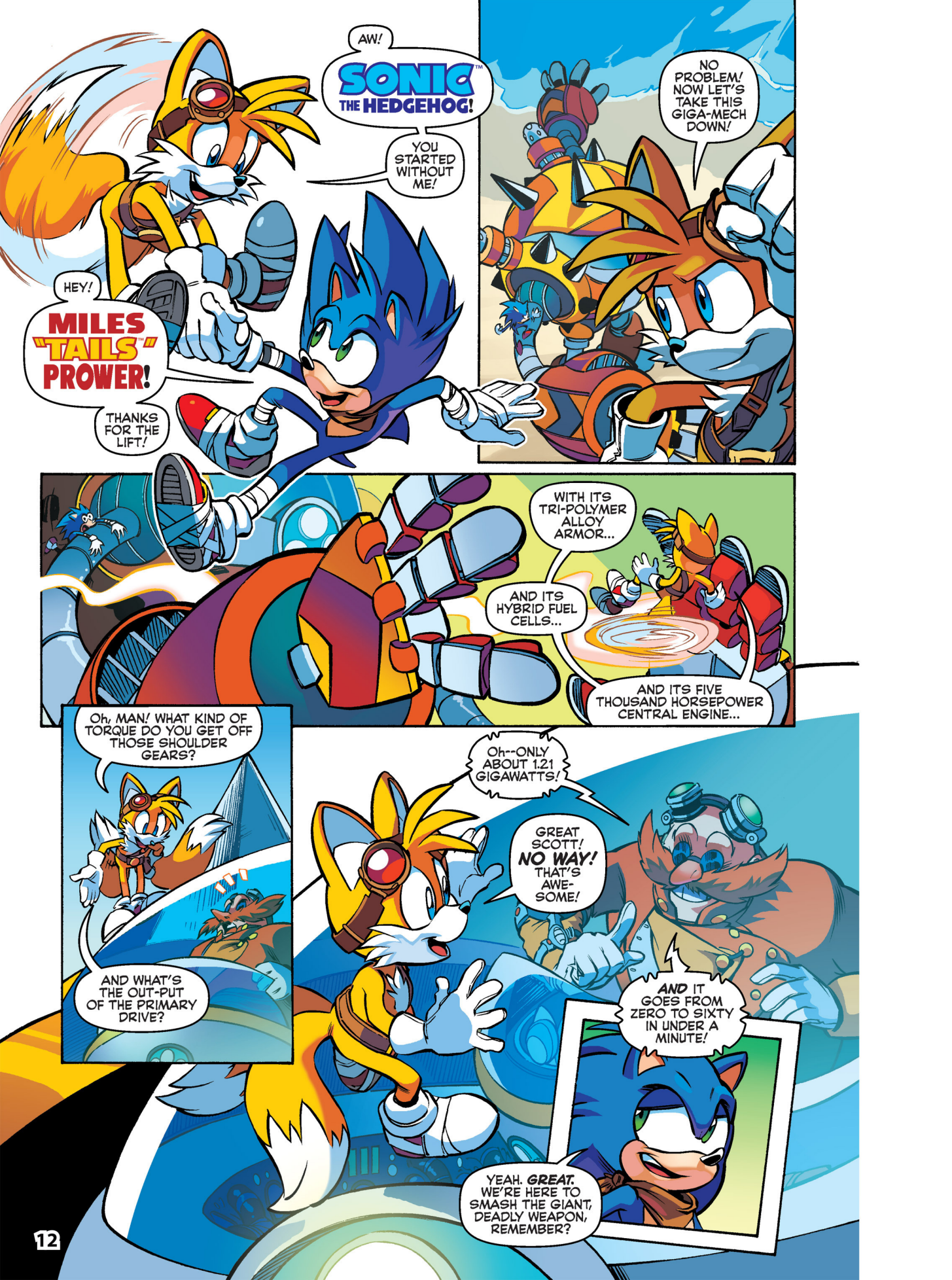
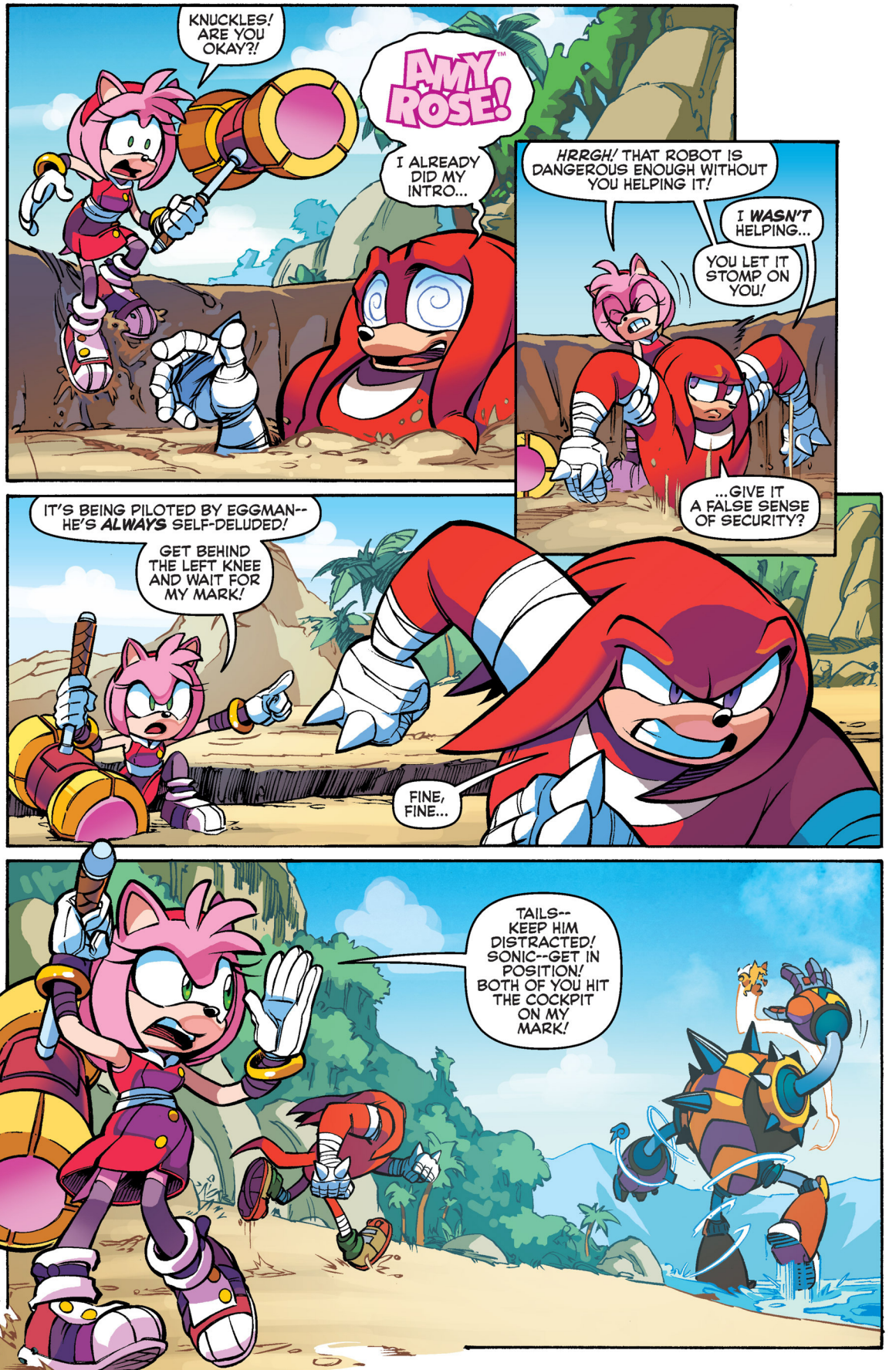
SPECIAL THANKS TO: TYLER HAM, ANTHONY GACCIONE and the CHARACTER BUSINESS and LICENSING DEPARTMENT of SEGA CORPORATION

...THE FASTER I RUN...
PING
PING
PING
...THE HIGHER I JUMP...
...AND THE HARDER I HIT!
KLANG
GAH!
THAT'S NOT HOW THE SAYING GOES! NOBODY SAYS THAT!

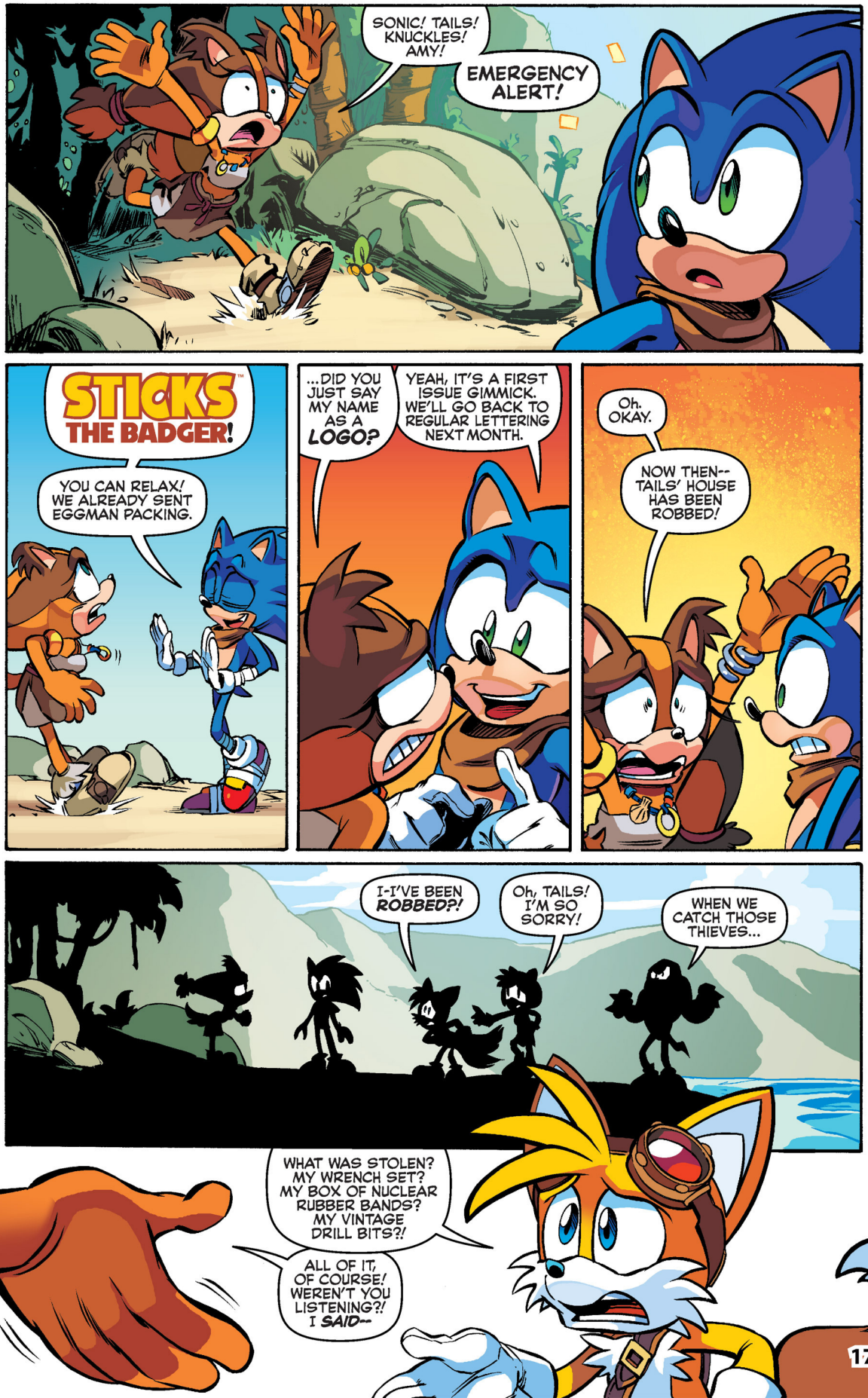

AW!
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!
YOU STARTED WITHOUT ME!
HEY!
MILES "TAILS" PROWER!
THANKS FOR THE LIFT!
NO PROBLEM! NOW LET'S TAKE THIS GIGA-MECH DOWN!
WITH ITS TRI-POLYMER ALLOY ARMOR...
AND ITS HYBRID FUEL CELLS...
AND ITS FIVE THOUSAND HORSEPOWER CENTRAL ENGINE...
Oh, MAN! WHAT KIND OF TORQUE DO YOU GET OFF THOSE SHOULDER GEARS?
AND WHAT'S THE OUT-PUT OF THE PRIMARY DRIVE?
Oh--ONLY ABOUT 1.21 GIGAWATTS!
GREAT SCOTT! NO WAY! THAT'S AWE-SOME!
AND IT GOES FROM ZERO TO SIXTY IN UNDER A MINUTE!
YEAH. GREAT. WE'RE HERE TO SMASH THE GIANT, DEADLY WEAPON, REMEMBER?

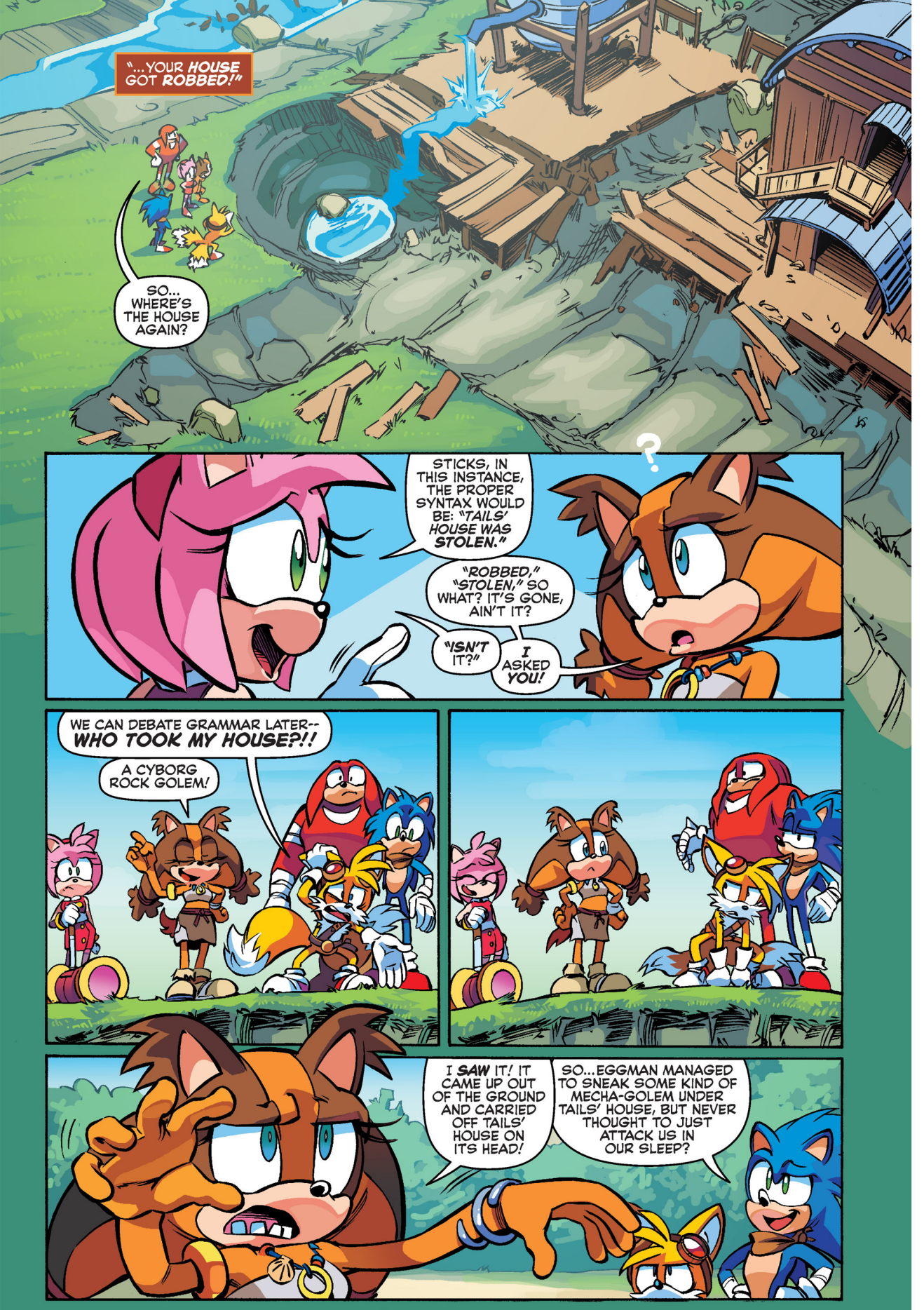
GOOD LUCK SMASHING IT WITHOUT ME!
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!
THAT'S RIGHT--I GET TO INTRODUCE MYSELF!
YOU DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH, ROBOT. C'MON! I'LL GIVE YOU ONE FREE SHOT BEFORE I TEAR YOU TO--
--PIECES?
KER-STOMP
UGH... IT WEARS A SIZE 160...

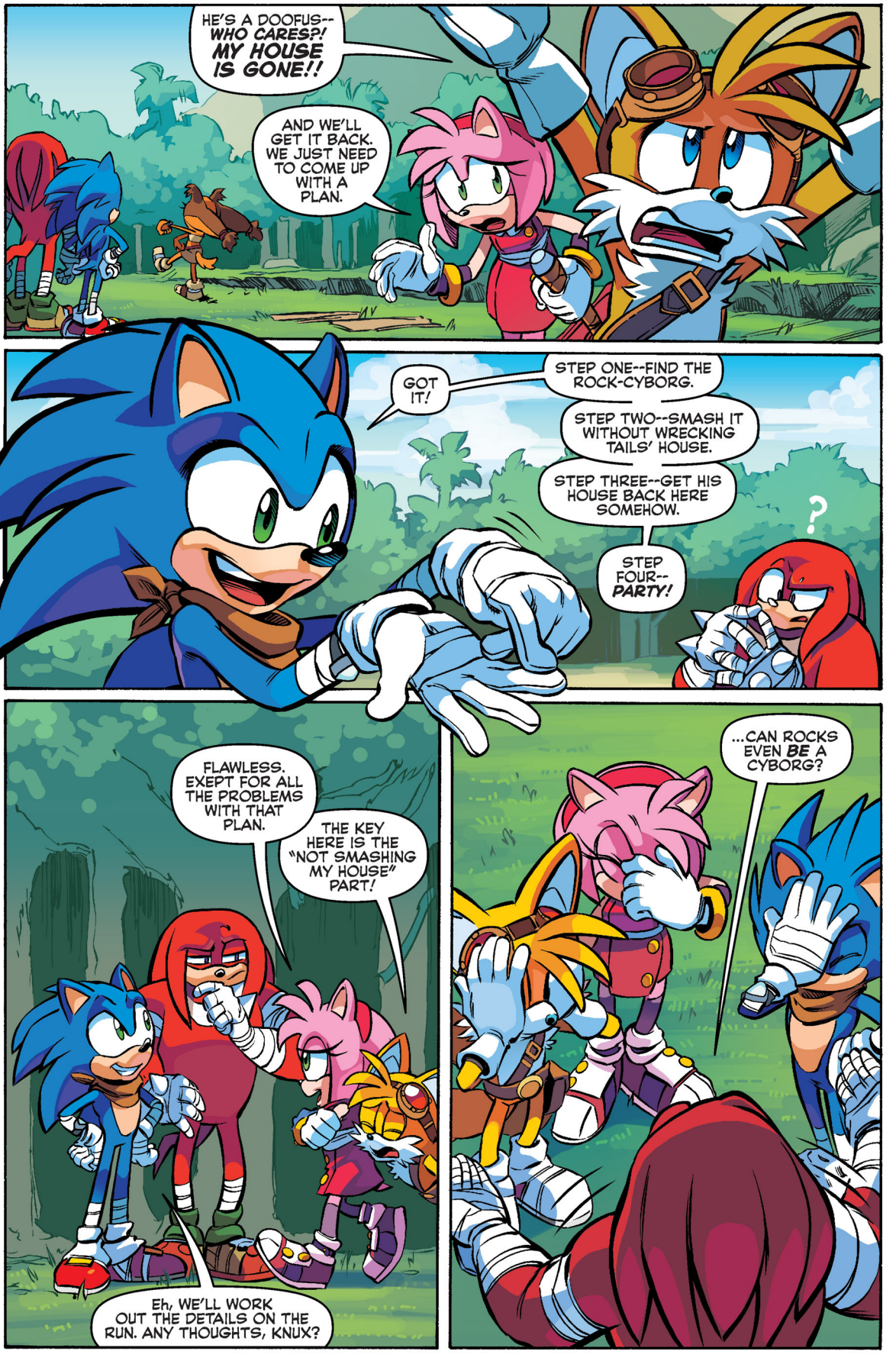

KNUCKLES! ARE YOU OKAY?!
AMY ROSE!
I ALREADY DID MY INTRO...
HRRGH! THAT ROBOT IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH WITHOUT YOU HELPING IT!
I WASN'T HELPING...
YOU LET IT STOMP ON YOU!
...GIVE IT A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY?
IT'S BEING PILOTED BY EGGMAN-- HE'S ALWAYS SELF-DELUDED!
GET BEHIND THE LEFT KNEE AND WAIT FOR MY MARK!
FINE, FINE...
TAILS-- KEEP HIM DISTRACTED! SONIC--GET IN POSITION! BOTH OF YOU HIT THE COCKPIT ON MY MARK!

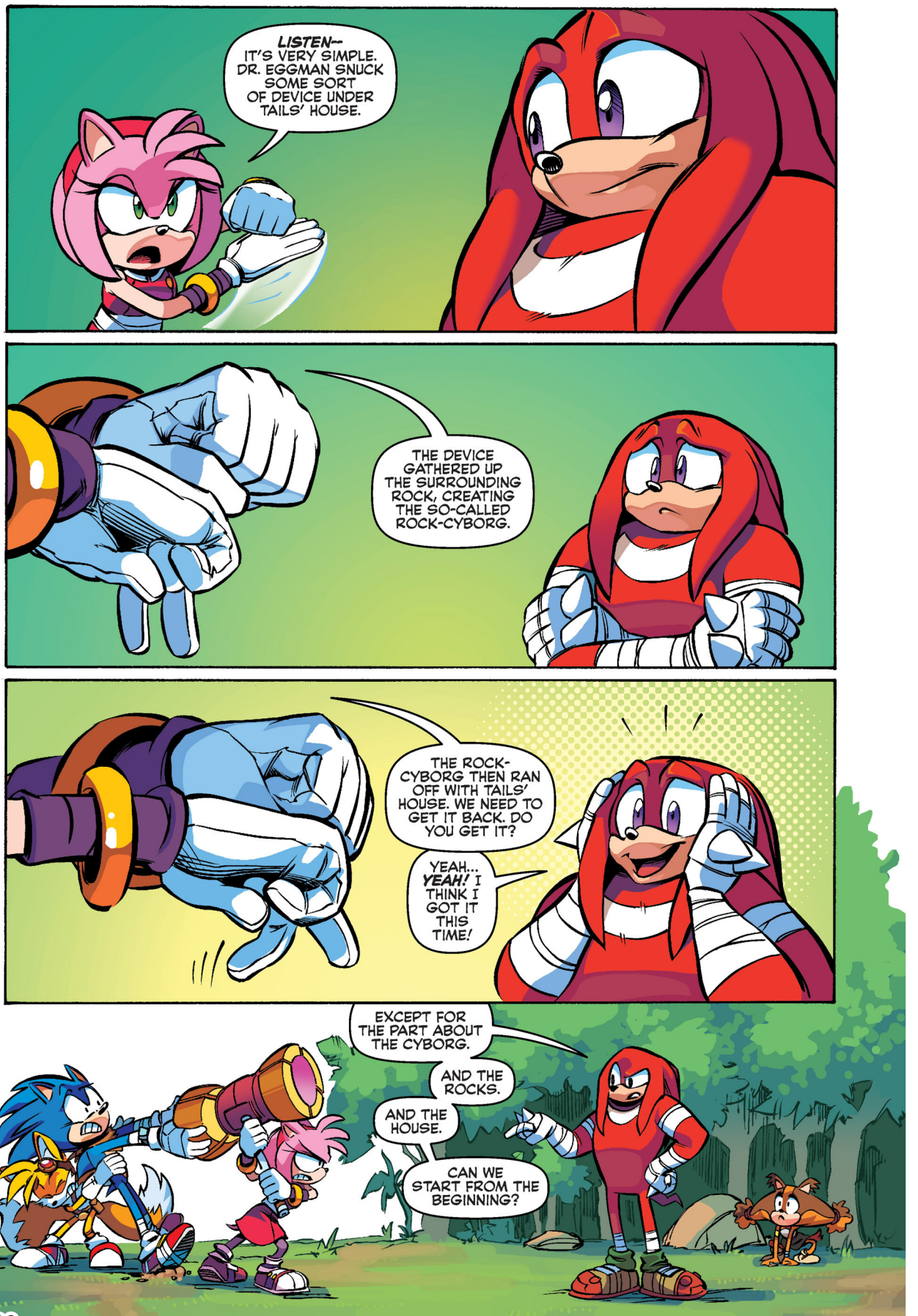
READY!
READY!
READY!
READY!
WAIT-- WHAT'S GOING ON?!
NOW!
SMASH
NOOOOOOOO!!
BANG
KRASH
WHOOM

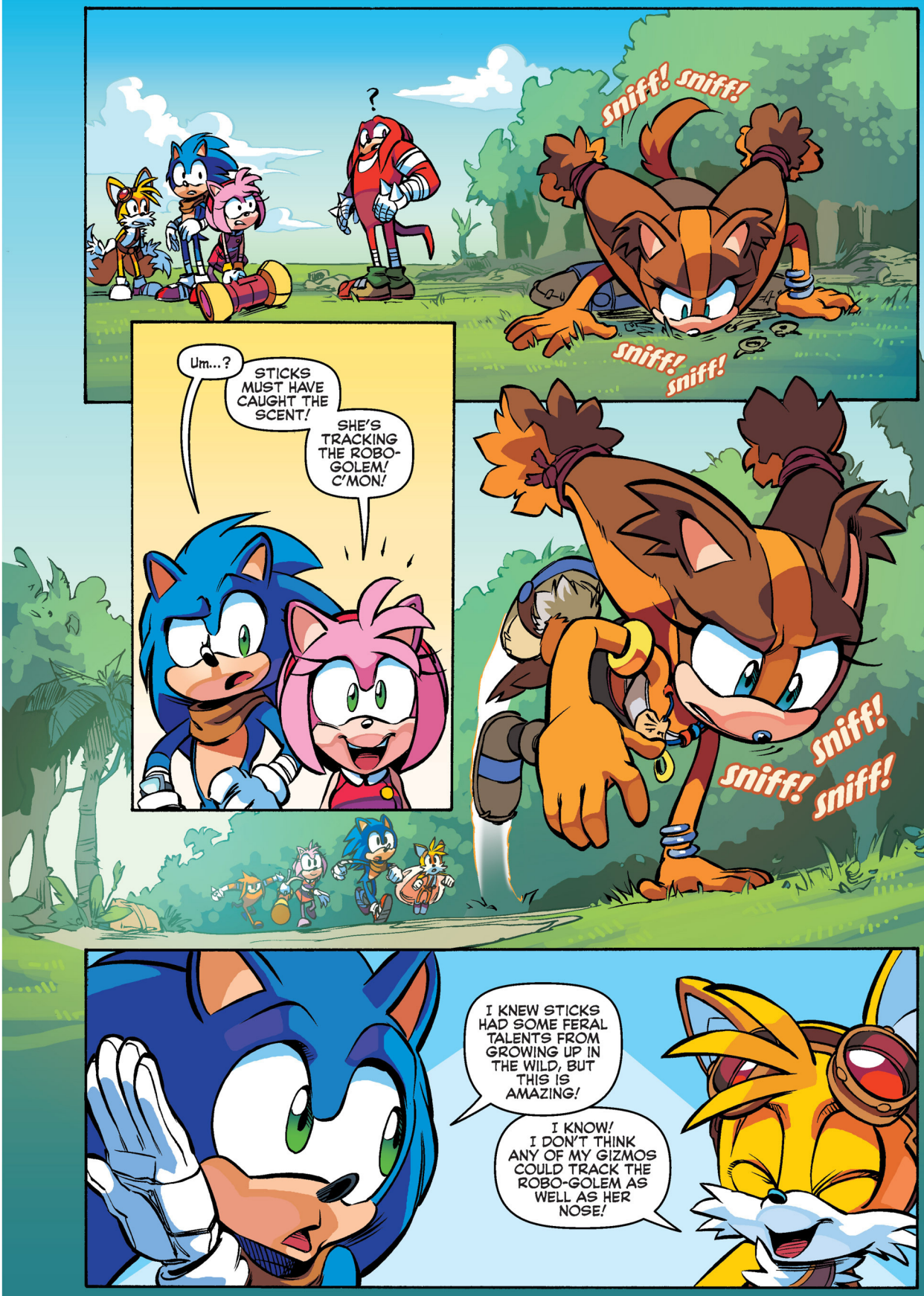
KER-SPLOOSH
NICE WORK, GANG!
THANKS, SONIC!
ANY SIGN OF EGGMAN? WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?
HMM... FROM HERE IT LOOKS LIKE...
GRRR... JUST NEEDS A FEW UPGRADES, THAT'S ALL...!
THE BACK-STROKE.

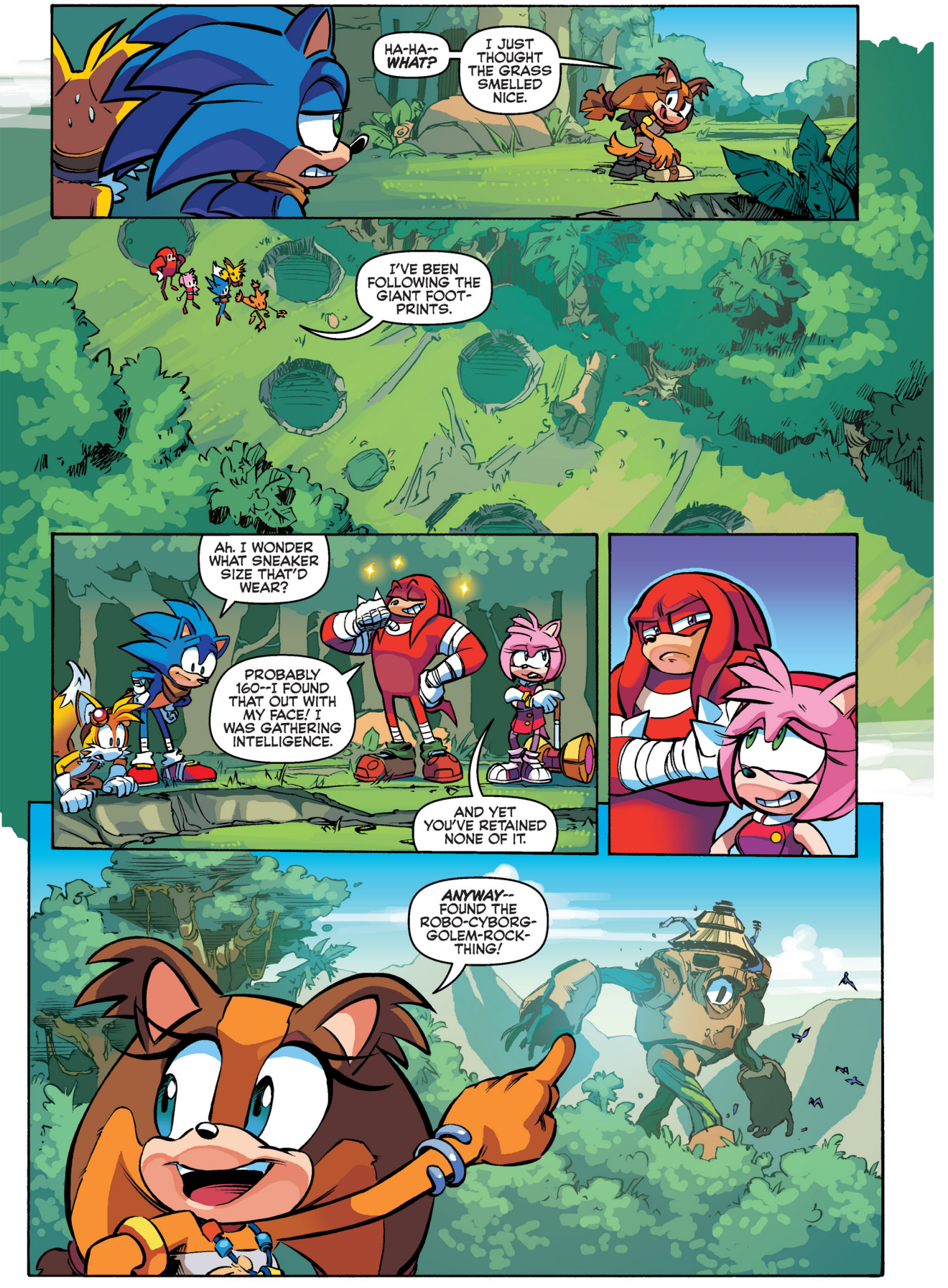

SONIC! TAILS! KNUCKLES! AMY!
EMERGENCY ALERT!
STICKS THE BADGER!
YOU CAN RELAX! WE ALREADY SENT EGGMAN PACKING.
...DID YOU JUST SAY MY NAME AS A LOGO?
YEAH, IT'S A FIRST ISSUE GIMMICK. WE'LL GO BACK TO REGULAR LETTERING NEXT MONTH.
Oh. OKAY.
NOW THEN-- TAILS' HOUSE HAS BEEN ROBBED!
I-I'VE BEEN ROBBED?!
Oh, TAILS! I'M SO SORRY!
WHEN WE CATCH THOSE THIEVES...
WHAT WAS STOLEN? MY WRENCH SET? MY BOX OF NUCLEAR RUBBER BANDS? MY VINTAGE DRILL BITS?!
ALL OF IT, OF COURSE! WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?! I SAID--

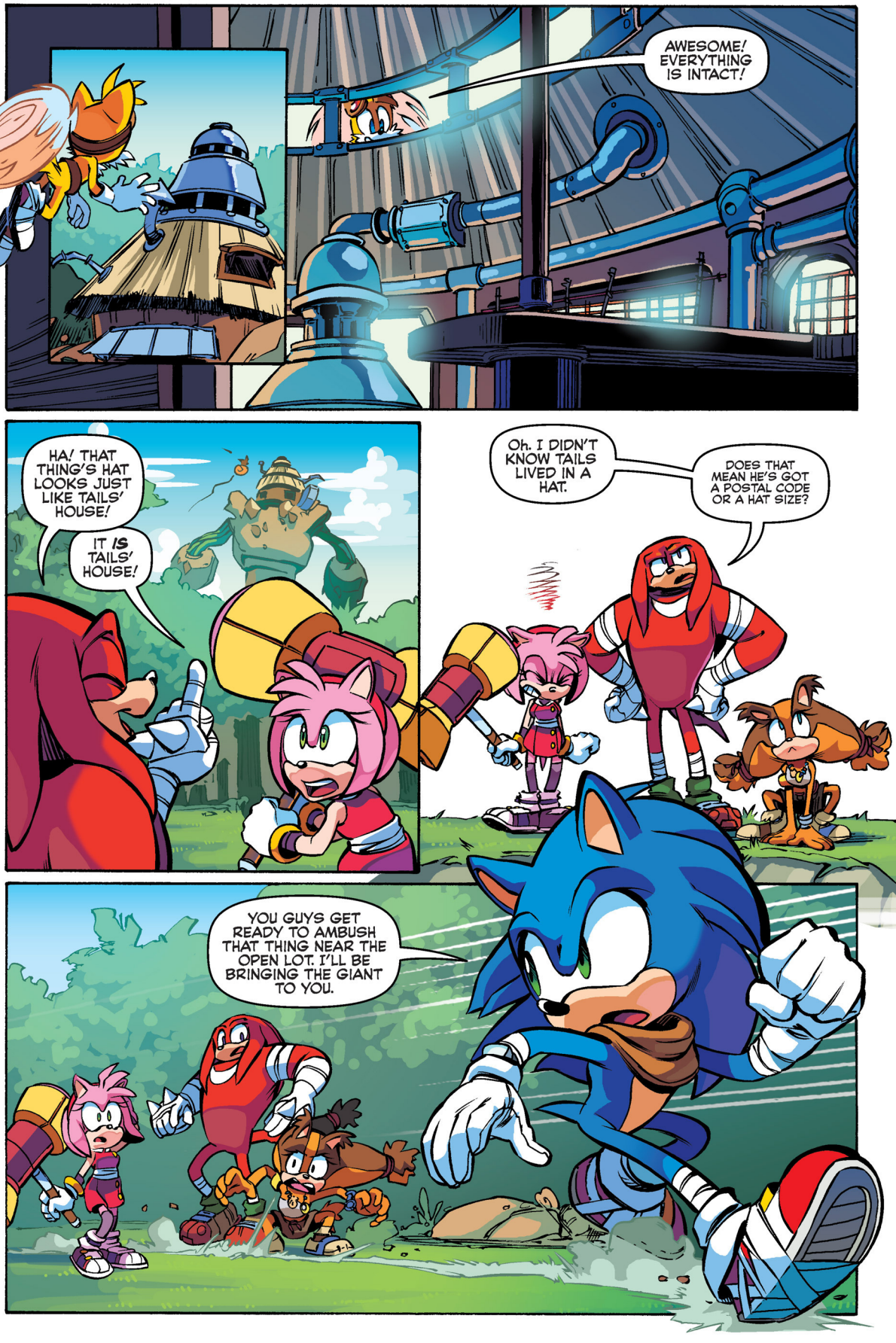

"...YOUR HOUSE GOT ROBBED!"
SO... WHERE'S THE HOUSE AGAIN?
STICKS, IN THIS INSTANCE, THE PROPER SYNTAX WOULD BE: "TAILS' HOUSE WAS STOLEN."
"ROBBED," "STOLEN," SO WHAT? IT'S GONE, AIN'T IT?
"ISN'T IT?"
I ASKED YOU!
WE CAN DEBATE GRAMMAR LATER-- WHO TOOK MY HOUSE?!!
A CYBORG ROCK GOLEM!
I SAW IT! IT CAME UP OUT OF THE GROUND AND CARRIED OFF TAILS' HOUSE ON ITS HEAD!
SO...EGGMAN MANAGED TO SNEAK SOME KIND OF MECHA-GOLEM UNDER TAILS' HOUSE, BUT NEVER THOUGHT TO JUST ATTACK US IN OUR SLEEP?


HE'S A DOOFUS--
WHO CARES?!
MY HOUSE IS GONE!!
AND WE'LL GET IT BACK. WE JUST NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN.
GOT IT!
STEP ONE--FIND THE ROCK-CYBORG.
STEP TWO--SMASH IT WITHOUT WRECKING TAILS' HOUSE.
STEP THREE--GET HIS HOUSE BACK HERE SOMEHOW.
STEP FOUR--
PARTY!
?
FLAWLESS. EXEPT FOR ALL THE PROBLEMS WITH THAT PLAN.
THE KEY HERE IS THE "NOT SMASHING MY HOUSE" PART!
Eh, WE'LL WORK OUT THE DETAILS ON THE RUN. ANY THOUGHTS, KNUX?
...CAN ROCKS EVEN BE A CYBORG?

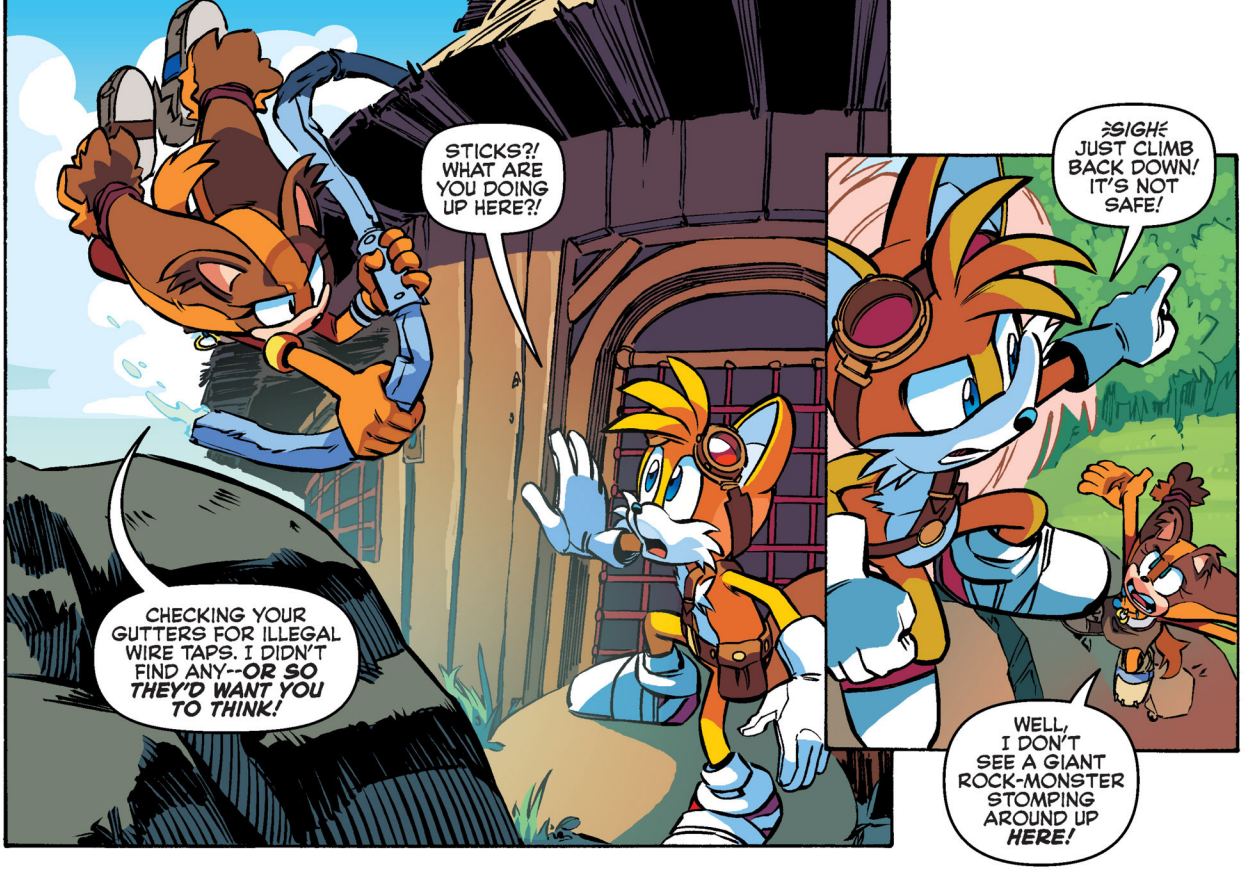

LISTEN-- IT'S VERY SIMPLE. DR. EGGMAN SNUCK SOME SORT OF DEVICE UNDER TAILS' HOUSE.
THE DEVICE GATHERED UP THE SURROUNDING ROCK, CREATING THE SO-CALLED ROCK-CYBORG.
THE ROCK-CYBORG THEN RAN OFF WITH TAILS' HOUSE. WE NEED TO GET IT BACK. DO YOU GET IT?
YEAH... YEAH! I THINK I GOT IT THIS TIME!
EXCEPT FOR THE PART ABOUT THE CYBORG.
AND THE ROCKS.
AND THE HOUSE.
CAN WE START FROM THE BEGINNING?

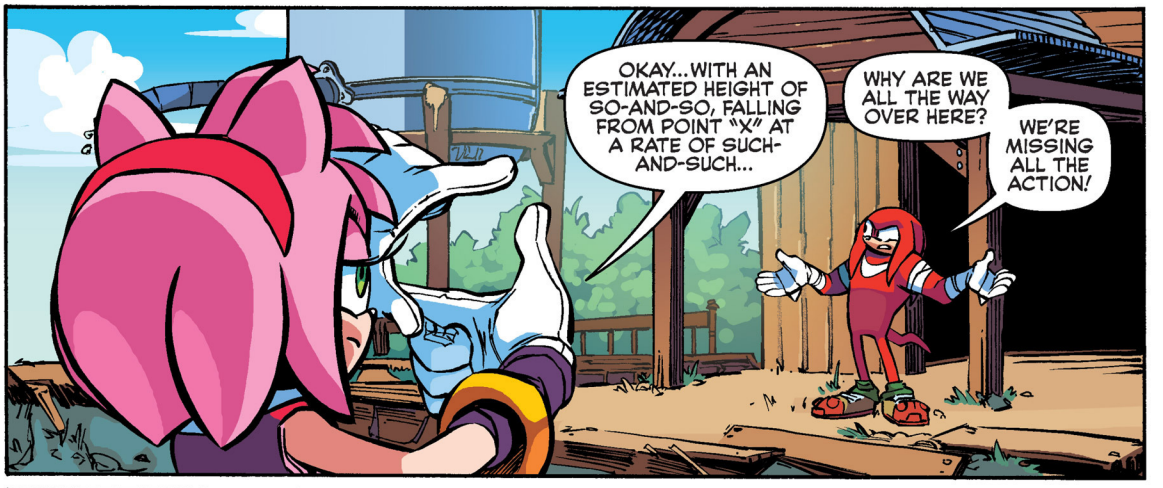

?
sniff! sniff!
sniff! sniff!
Um...?
STICKS MUST HAVE CAUGHT THE SCENT!
SHE'S TRACKING THE ROBO-GOLEM! C'MON!
sniff! sniff!
sniff! sniff!
I KNEW STICKS HAD SOME FERAL TALENTS FROM GROWING UP IN THE WILD, BUT THIS IS AMAZING!
I KNOW! I DON'T THINK ANY OF MY GIZMOS COULD TRACK THE ROBO-GOLEM AS WELL AS HER NOSE!

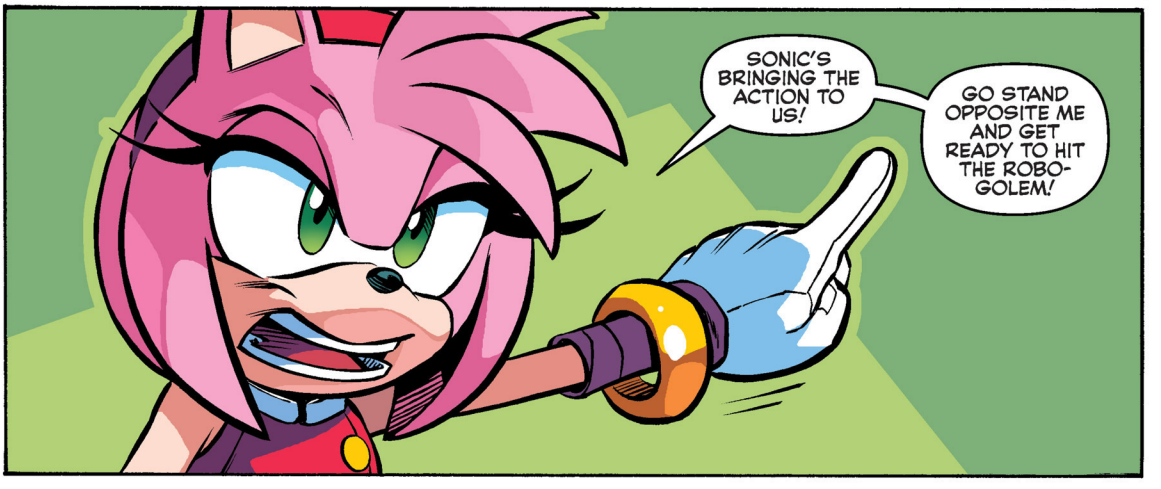

HA-HA-- WHAT?
I JUST THOUGHT THE GRASS SMELLED NICE.
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE GIANT FOOT-PRINTS.
Ah. I WONDER WHAT SNEAKER SIZE THAT'D WEAR?
PROBABLY 160--I FOUND THAT OUT WITH MY FACE! I WAS GATHERING INTELLIGENCE.
AND YET YOU'VE RETAINED NONE OF IT.
ANYWAY-- FOUND THE ROBO-CYBORG-GOLEM-ROCK-THING!


AWESOME! EVERYTHING IS INTACT!
HA! THAT THING'S HAT LOOKS JUST LIKE TAILS' HOUSE!
IT IS TAILS' HOUSE!
Oh. I DIDN'T KNOW TAILS LIVED IN A HAT.
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S GOT A POSTAL CODE OR A HAT SIZE?
YOU GUYS GET READY TO AMBUSH THAT THING NEAR THE OPEN LOT. I'LL BE BRINGING THE GIANT TO YOU.

SO SINCE YOU'RE A GIANT EGGMAN ROBOT *AND* YOU WERE SNUCK IN UNDER MY BEST BUDDY'S HOUSE, I'M GOING TO ASSUME...
...YOU'RE PROGRAMMED TO HATE MY GUTS.
KER-THOOM
HAHAHA! THAT'S IT, BOULDERS-FOR-BRAINS! COME AND GET ME!
A HUNDRED METER-LONG STRIDE, AND YOU *STILL* CAN'T KEEP UP WITH--
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!
WOO! DOUBLE LOGO FOR THE WIN!
KER-THOOM


STICKS?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?!
CHECKING YOUR GUTTERS FOR ILLEGAL WIRE TAPS. I DIDN'T FIND ANY--OR SO THEY'D WANT YOU TO THINK!
SIGH JUST CLIMB BACK DOWN! IT'S NOT SAFE!
WELL, I DON'T SEE A GIANT ROCK-MONSTER STOMPING AROUND UP HERE!

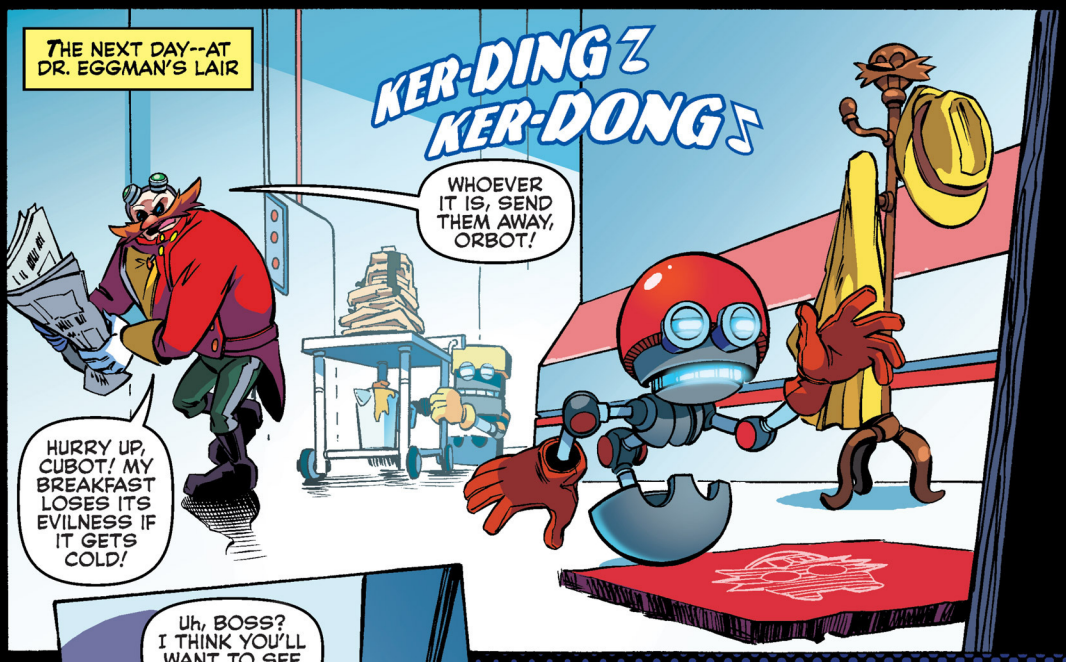

OKAY...WITH AN ESTIMATED HEIGHT OF SO-AND-SO, FALLING FROM POINT "X" AT A RATE OF SUCH-AND-SUCH...
WHY ARE WE ALL THE WAY OVER HERE?
WE'RE MISSING ALL THE ACTION!


SONIC'S BRINGING THE ACTION TO US!
GO STAND OPPOSITE ME AND GET READY TO HIT THE ROBO-GOLEM!

YOU MEAN THE ROCK-CYBORG?
YES!
BUT...IT'S NOT HERE TO HIT YET?
WHEN IT GETS HERE! WE'RE SETTING UP AN AMBUSH! JUST TRUST ME ON THIS!
I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT FOR TAILS' SAKE, TRY TO ACTUALLY THINK FOR THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES!
HERE IT COMES!

KER-SMASH
KER-THWACK
KER-BOOM

Ker-PLOP
YOU DID IT, SONIC!
WE DID IT!
IT'S RAINING STONES... JUST LIKE MY FORTUNE COOKIE SAID!
ALTHOUGH-- WHEN I ASKED IF I COULD CRASH AT YOUR PLACE TONIGHT, I DIDN'T HAVE THIS IN MIND.
HAHA! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME! JUST LOOK OUT FOR ROBOT INFESTATION!
Y'KNOW-- I'M LIKING THESE RENOVATIONS!
THAT'S A REALLY NICE NEW PAVED WALK-WAY!
AND ROCK GARDEN.
AND QUARRY.


THE NEXT DAY--AT DR. EGGMAN'S LAIR
KER-DING Z KER-DONG ♪
WHOEVER IT IS, SEND THEM AWAY, ORBOT!
HURRY UP, CUBOT! MY BREAKFAST LOSES ITS EVILNESS IF IT GETS COLD!

KNUCKLES AND EGGMAN
PARTNERS IN CRIME???
SAY IT ISN'T SO!
THE WILD AND WACKY ADVENTURES CONTINUE IN:
SONIC BOOM #2!

YOU CAN CATCH MORE SONIC ACTION IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND SONIC UNIVERSE EVERY MONTH, SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE AND SONIC SUPER DIGEST EVERY QUARTER, AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY WHENEVER YOU WANT! AND DON'T FORGET TO WRITE IN AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF SONIC BOOM! WE HERE AT ARCHIE ***LOVE*** WHAT YOU FANS HAVE TO SAY, IN FACT, WE HATE ***NOT*** TO HEAR WHAT YOU FANS HAVE TO SAY! IN FACT, WE'RE DOWNRIGHT SCARED AT THE THOUGHT OF NOT HEARING WHAT YOU FANS HAVE TO SAY! THE ONLY THING THAT SCARES US ***MORE*** IS TEXT THAT TRAILS OFF THE PAGE! NOW THAT IS A SCARY SIGHT INDEED! I SURE HOPE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO--

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

SHADOW FALL

PREVIOUSLY

THE **BLACK ARMS** WERE A RACE OF ALIEN MARAUDERS THAT HAD ATTACKED SONIC'S WORLD LONG AGO. **SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG** DEFEATED THEIR LEADER AND CENTRAL HIVE-MIND, **BLACK DOOM**, AND BLEW UP THEIR TRAVELING HOMEWORLD, THE BLACK COMET.

A **NEW BLACK COMET** HAS ARRIVED, BEARING MORE BLACK ARMS. WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? HOW DID THEY SURVIVE BLACK DOOM'S DEFEAT?

NOBODY KNOWS, AND SHADOW ISN'T STOPPING TO ASK. HE LEADS **TEAM DARK** AND **G.U.N.'S SPIDER TROUPE** ON A MISSION TO BLOW UP THE NEW BLACK COMET AND STOP THE **MYSTERIOUS ALIENS.**

DID YOU KNOW...

Shadow the Hedgehog is one of the few characters to receive his own video game title in the Sonic franchise! Other characters who've received their own solo games include Miles "Tails" Prower, who had multiple titles for the Sega Game Gear and Knuckles the Echidna, who had his own title for the 32X!

SONIC
SUPER SPECIAL
BONUS PIN-UP!

"LOCK 'N' LOAD, SPIDER TROUPE. WE GO HOT IN FIVE."
WE'VE MASKED OUR APPROACH, BUT IF THOSE BUG-EYED FREAKS HAVE ANY WINDOWS ON THAT THING, THEY KNOW WE'RE COMING.
DO NOT ACCEPT A WARM WELCOME. THE MINUTE WE DOCK, YOU ARE ALL CLEARED TO FIRE AT WILL.
DOCK! DOCK! DOCK!
"THESE ALIEN SCUMBAGS HAVE CROSSED THE GALAXY TO RUIN OUR LIVES. LET'S GO GIVE 'EM A PROPER 'HELLO'!"

GIGA TROOPER PILOTED ASSAULT MECH

ROUGE MASTER SPY and THIEF

SPIDER TROUPE ELITE G.U.N. SOLDIERS

OMEGA WALKING ARSENAL

SHADOW ULTIMATE LIFEFORM

Budda Budda Budda

BLAM

BLAM

ROOOAAARRR!!

BLACK VOLT BLACK ARMS RAPTOR

BLACK OAK BLACK ARMS BEHEMOTH

BLACK ASSASSIN BLACK ARMS ELITE

BLACK WARRIORS BLACK ARMS SOLDIERS

SHADOW FALL

PART ONE: INTO THE UNKNOWN

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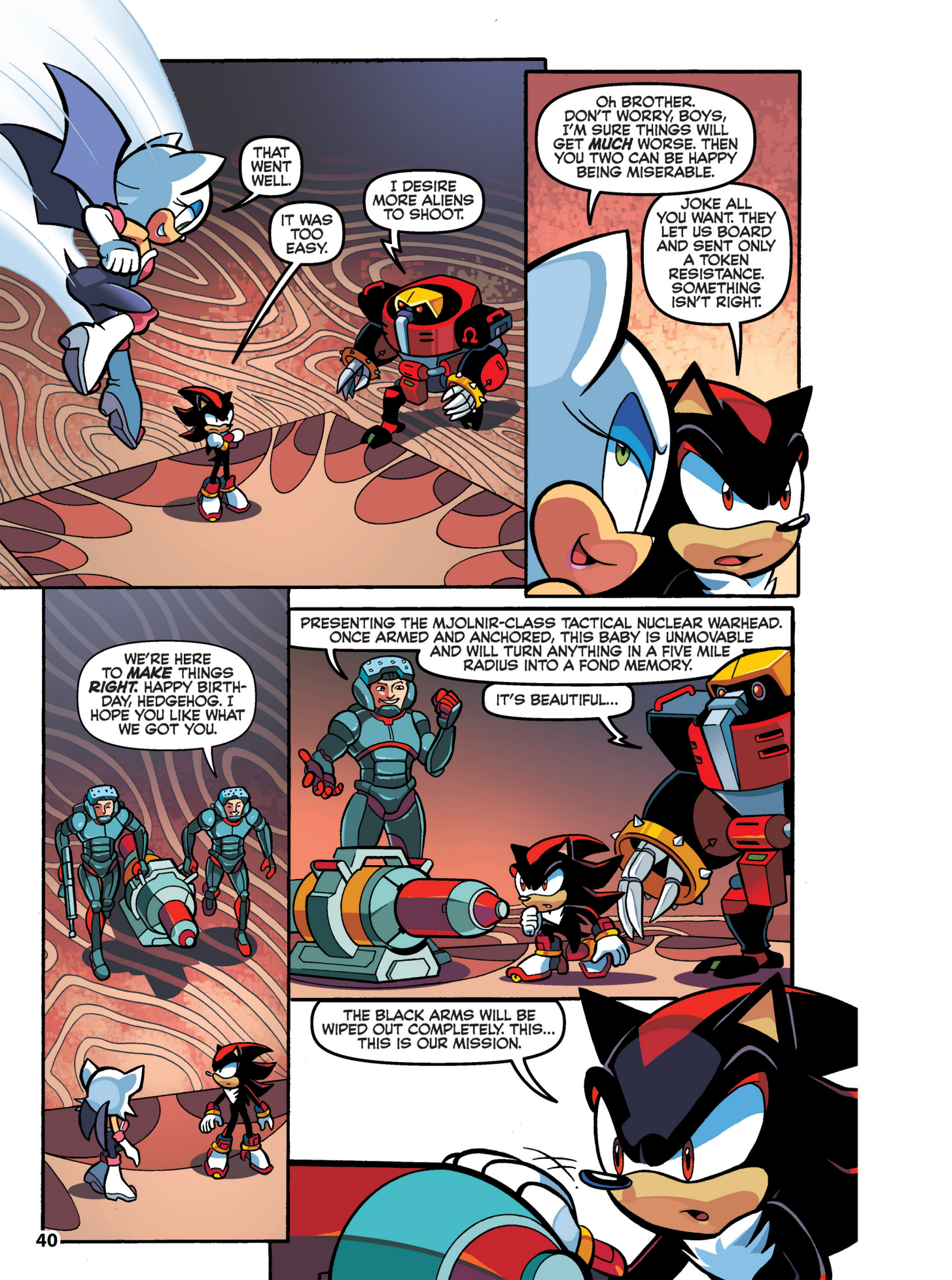
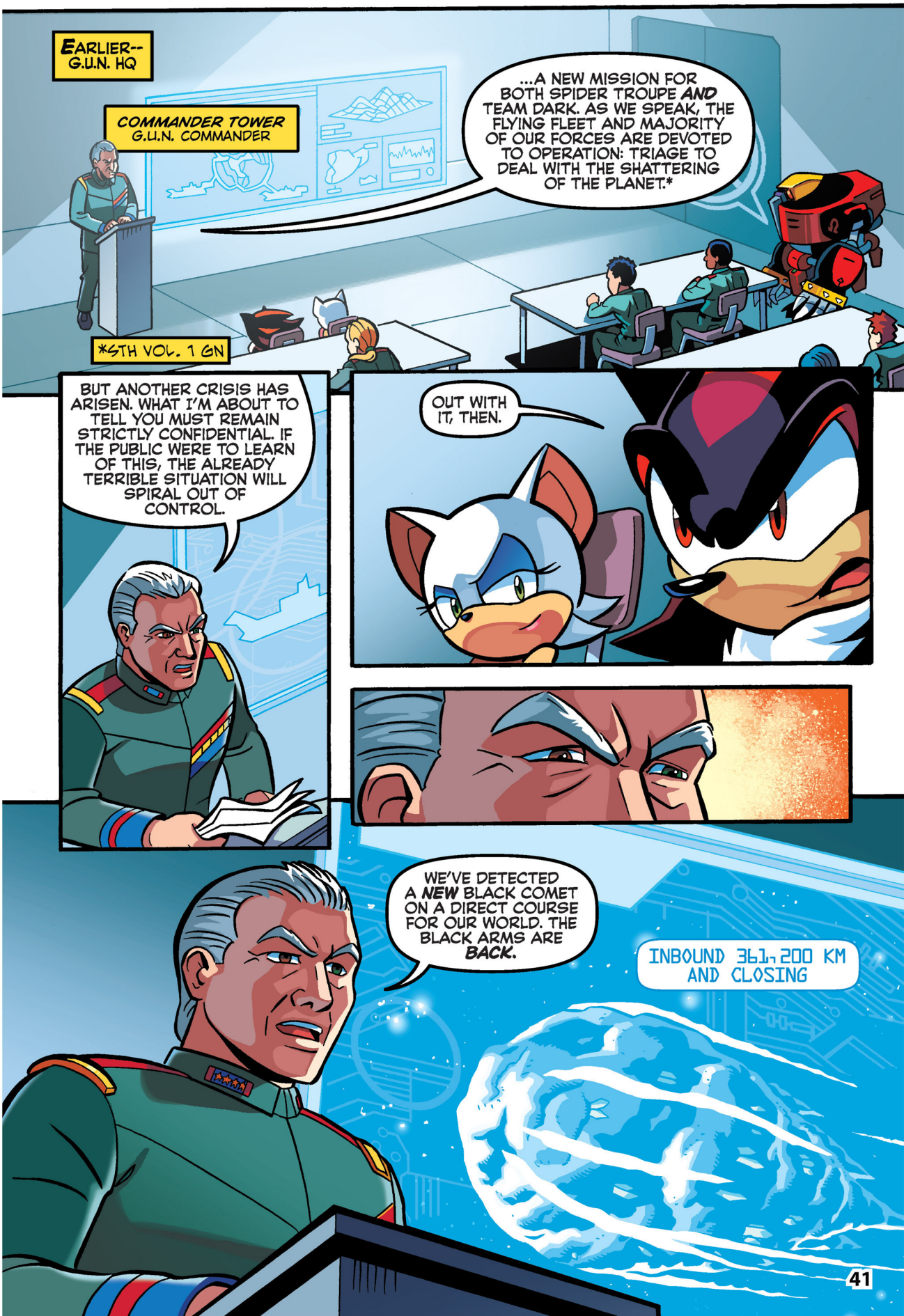
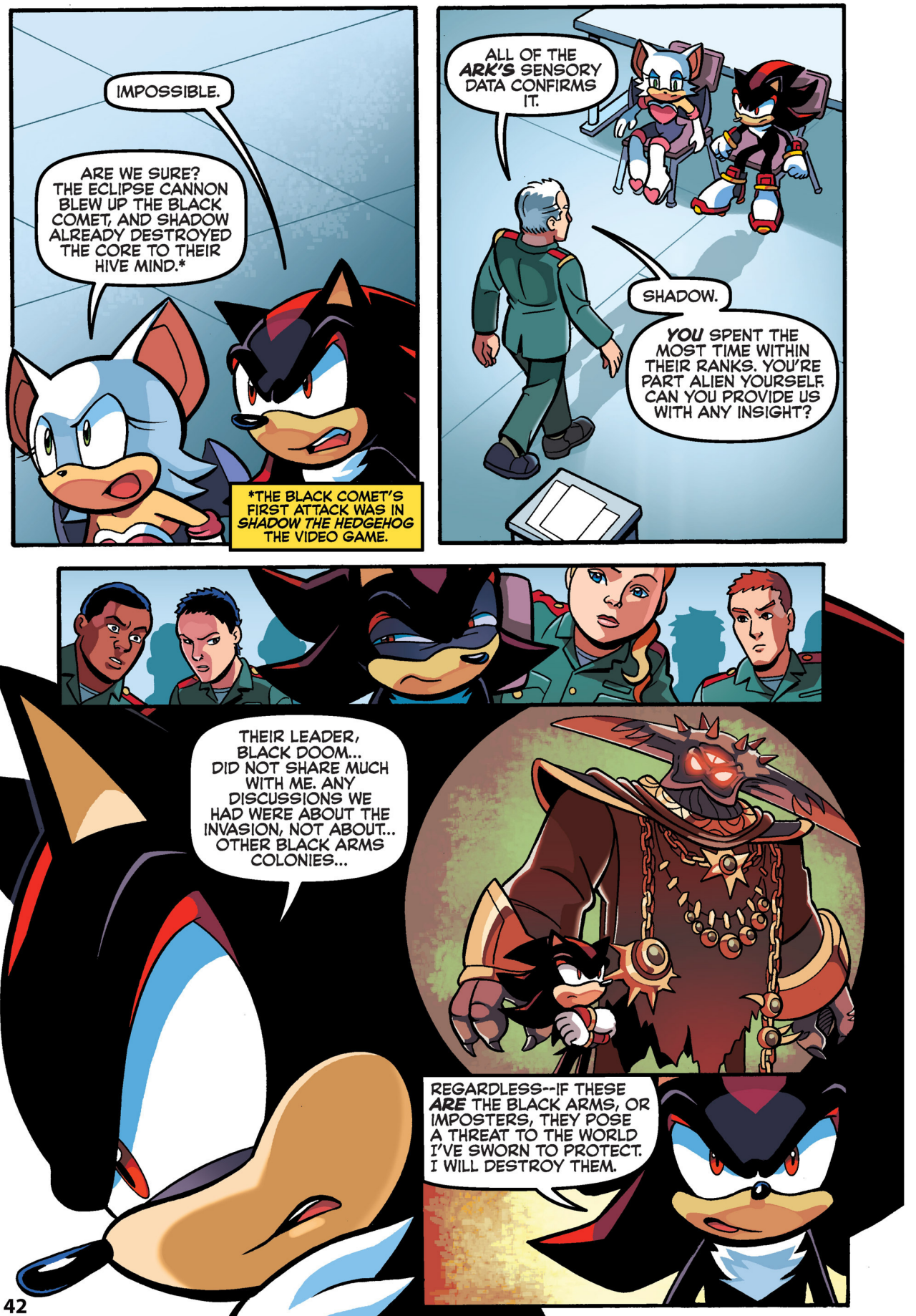
SPECIAL THANKS TO: ANTHONY GACCIONE, CINDY CHAU and the
CHARACTER BUSINESS and LICENSING DEPARTMENT of SEGA CORPORATION

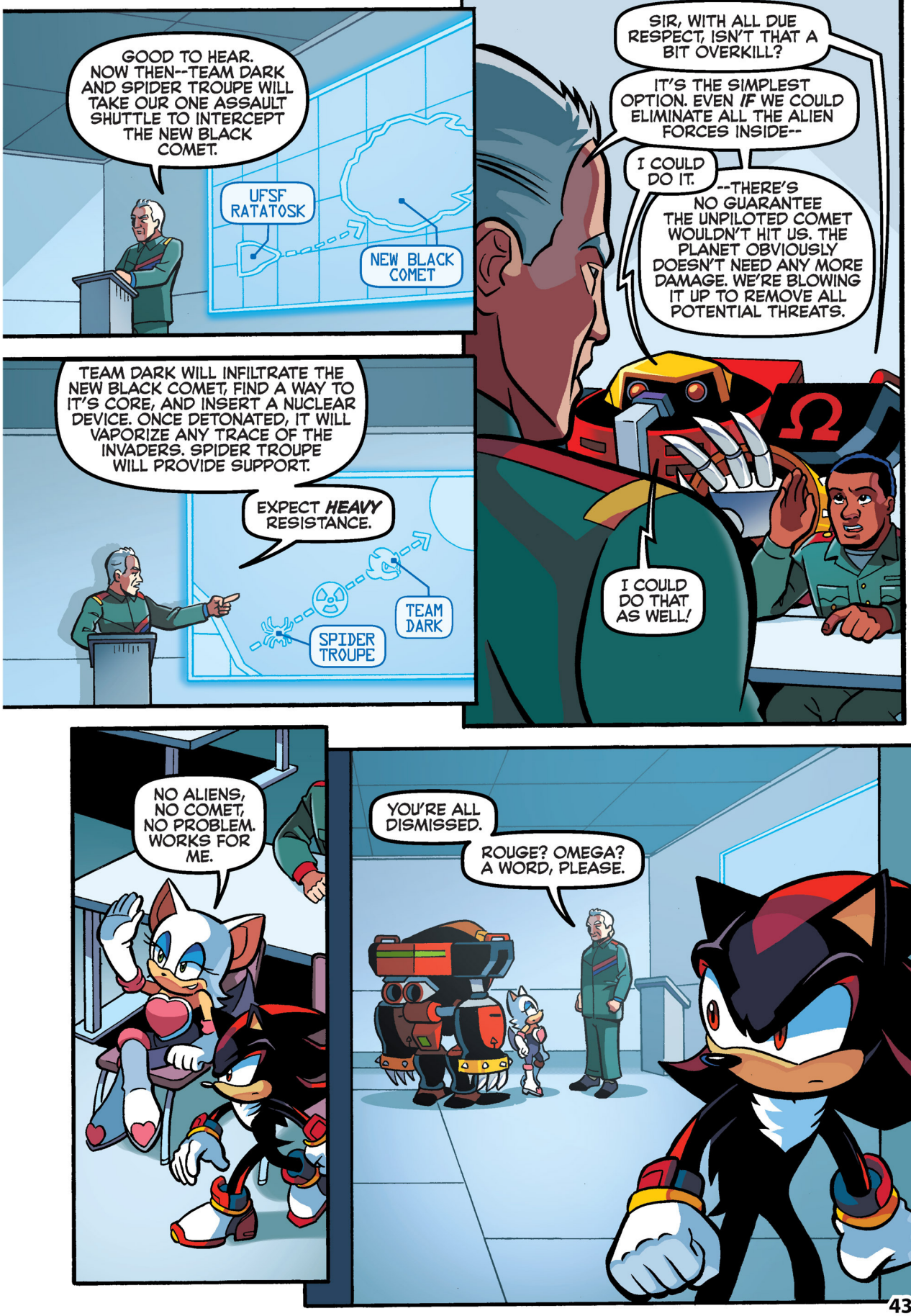
THOK
Budda Budda Budda
BLAM BLAM
Budda Budda Budda
BLAM
Budda Budda Budda
BLAM
KRAK
ROOOARR!!

ROOOAAARRR!!
SHUNK
BATTA-BATTA BATTA-BATTA-BATTA
THUD
THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM! GET THE WOUNDED TO THE SHUTTLE AND LET'S SET UP A PERIMETER, PEOPLE!


THAT WENT WELL.
IT WAS TOO EASY.
I DESIRE MORE ALIENS TO SHOOT.
Oh BROTHER. DON'T WORRY, BOYS, I'M SURE THINGS WILL GET MUCH WORSE. THEN YOU TWO CAN BE HAPPY BEING MISERABLE.
JOKE ALL YOU WANT. THEY LET US BOARD AND SENT ONLY A TOKEN RESISTANCE. SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT.
WE'RE HERE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HEDGEHOG. I HOPE YOU LIKE WHAT WE GOT YOU.
PRESENTING THE MJOLNIR-CLASS TACTICAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD. ONCE ARMED AND ANCHORED, THIS BABY IS UNMOVABLE AND WILL TURN ANYTHING IN A FIVE MILE RADIUS INTO A FOND MEMORY.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
THE BLACK ARMS WILL BE WIPED OUT COMPLETELY. THIS... THIS IS OUR MISSION.

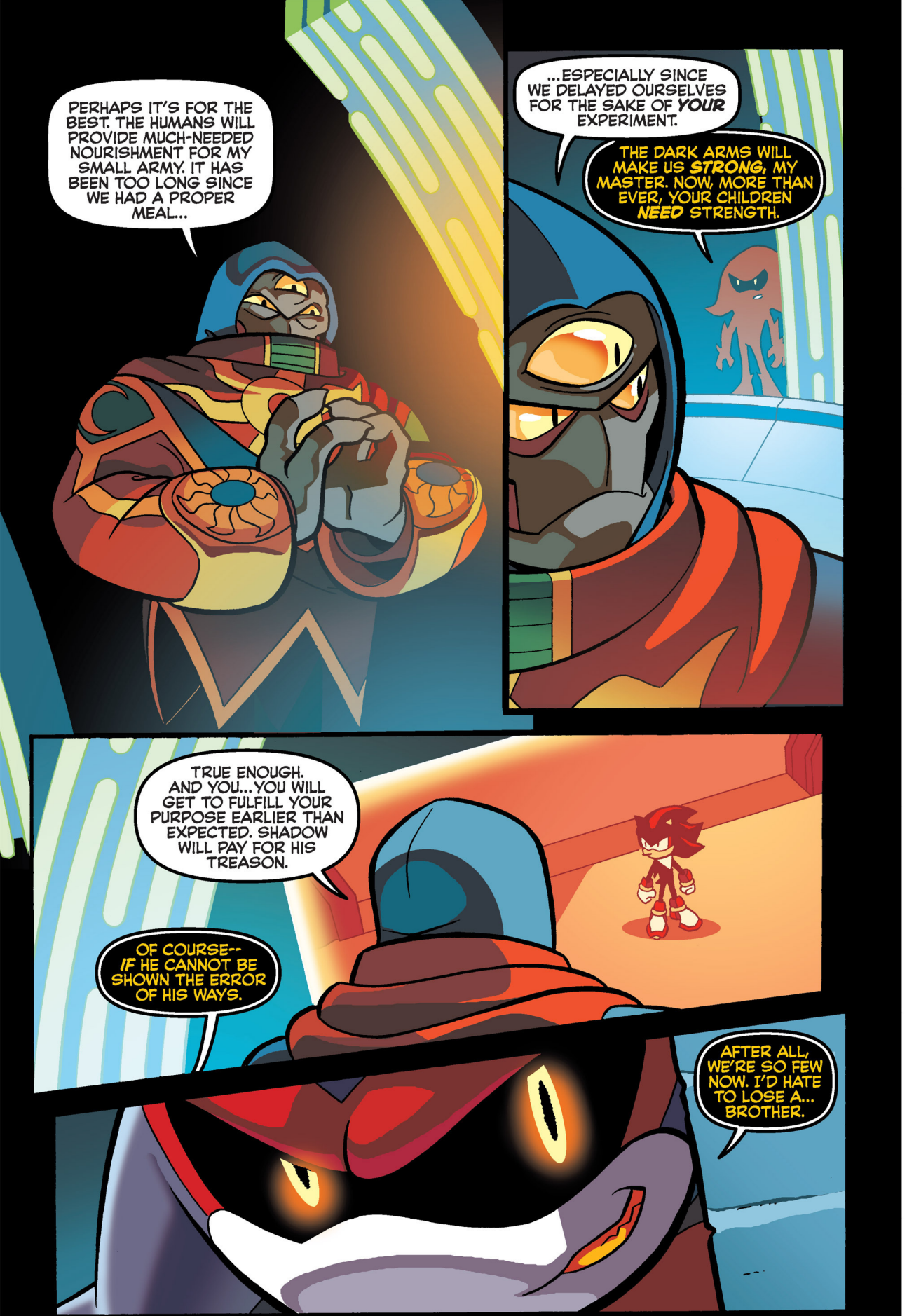

EARLIER--
G.U.N. HQ
COMMANDER TOWER
G.U.N. COMMANDER
...A NEW MISSION FOR BOTH SPIDER TROUPE AND TEAM DARK. AS WE SPEAK, THE FLYING FLEET AND MAJORITY OF OUR FORCES ARE DEVOTED TO OPERATION: TRIAGE TO DEAL WITH THE SHATTERING OF THE PLANET.*
*STH VOL. 1 GN
BUT ANOTHER CRISIS HAS ARISEN. WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU MUST REMAIN STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. IF THE PUBLIC WERE TO LEARN OF THIS, THE ALREADY TERRIBLE SITUATION WILL SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL.
OUT WITH IT, THEN.
WE'VE DETECTED A NEW BLACK COMET ON A DIRECT COURSE FOR OUR WORLD. THE BLACK ARMS ARE BACK.
INBOUND 361,200 KM AND CLOSING

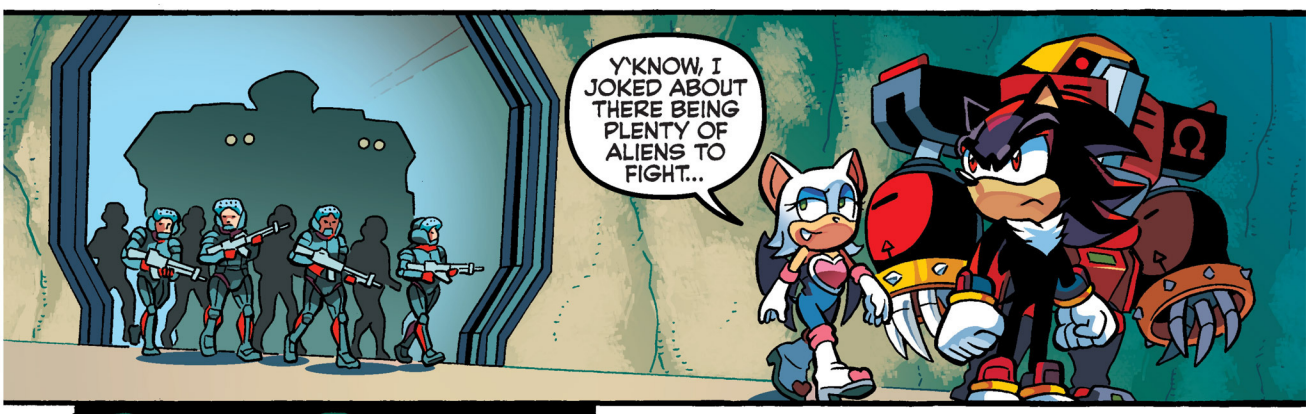

IMPOSSIBLE.
ARE WE SURE? THE ECLIPSE CANNON BLEW UP THE BLACK COMET, AND SHADOW ALREADY DESTROYED THE CORE TO THEIR HIVE MIND.*
*THE BLACK COMET'S FIRST ATTACK WAS IN *SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG* THE VIDEO GAME.
ALL OF THE ***ARK'S*** SENSORY DATA CONFIRMS IT.
SHADOW.
YOU SPENT THE MOST TIME WITHIN THEIR RANKS. YOU'RE PART ALIEN YOURSELF. CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH ANY INSIGHT?
THEIR LEADER, BLACK DOOM... DID NOT SHARE MUCH WITH ME. ANY DISCUSSIONS WE HAD WERE ABOUT THE INVASION, NOT ABOUT... OTHER BLACK ARMS COLONIES...
REGARDLESS--IF THESE ***ARE*** THE BLACK ARMS, OR IMPOSTERS, THEY POSE A THREAT TO THE WORLD I'VE SWORN TO PROTECT. I WILL DESTROY THEM.


GOOD TO HEAR. NOW THEN--TEAM DARK AND SPIDER TROUPE WILL TAKE OUR ONE ASSAULT SHUTTLE TO INTERCEPT THE NEW BLACK COMET.
UFSF RATATOSK
NEW BLACK COMET
SIR, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, ISN'T THAT A BIT OVERKILL?
IT'S THE SIMPLEST OPTION. EVEN IF WE COULD ELIMINATE ALL THE ALIEN FORCES INSIDE--
I COULD DO IT.
--THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THE UNPILOTED COMET WOULDN'T HIT US. THE PLANET OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T NEED ANY MORE DAMAGE. WE'RE BLOWING IT UP TO REMOVE ALL POTENTIAL THREATS.
TEAM DARK WILL INFILTRATE THE NEW BLACK COMET, FIND A WAY TO IT'S CORE, AND INSERT A NUCLEAR DEVICE. ONCE DETONATED, IT WILL VAPORIZE ANY TRACE OF THE INVADERS. SPIDER TROUPE WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT.
EXPECT HEAVY RESISTANCE.
TEAM DARK
SPIDER TROUPE
I COULD DO THAT AS WELL!
NO ALIENS, NO COMET, NO PROBLEM. WORKS FOR ME.
YOU'RE ALL DISMISSED.
ROUGE? OMEGA? A WORD, PLEASE.

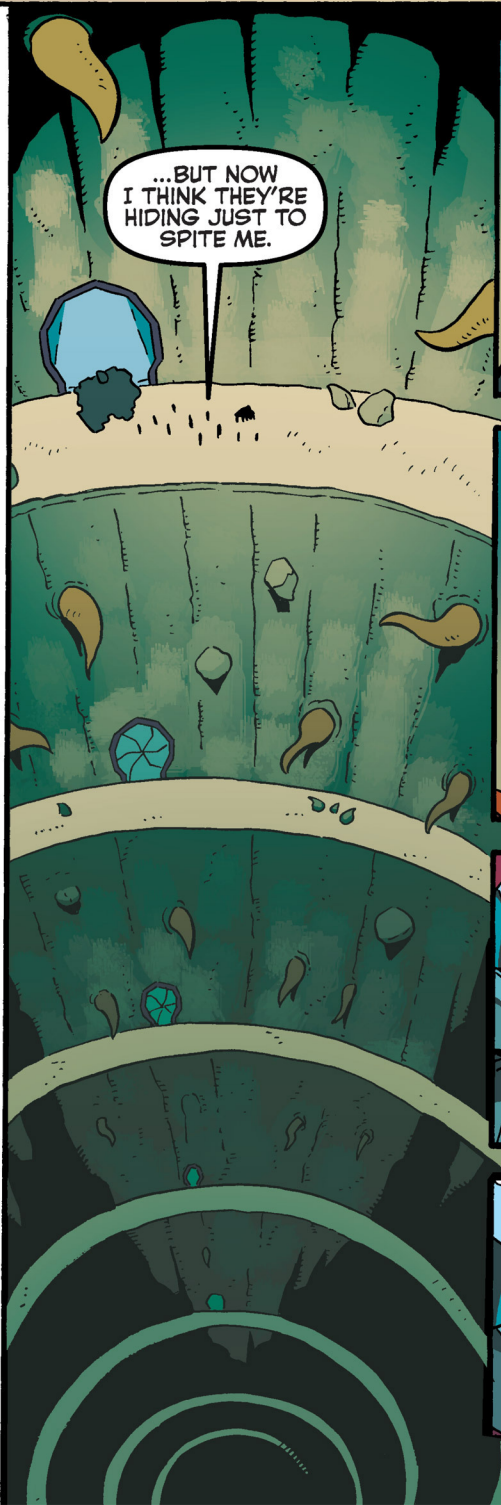
NOW
PERIMETER SECURE. ALL HOSTILES CONFIRMED NEUTRALIZED.
GOOD WORK, COOPER. LET'S GET READY FOR THE NEXT PUSH.
SO...THESE CERTAINLY *SEEM* LIKE THE SAME TYPES OF ALIENS WE FOUGHT BEFORE. STILL THINK THEY'RE IMPOSTERS?
I...DON'T KNOW. I SENSED THAT THE BLACK ARMS WERE ONE RACE, ALL IN THE SAME PLACE.
"SENSED?"
I SHARE A... LOOSE CONNECTION WITH THEIR HIVE-MIND. THEIR BLOOD IS IN MY VEINS. I CAN... *KNOW* SOME OF WHAT THEY KNOW. FEEL THEM MOVING THROUGH THE COMET...
WELL...DON'T GO *TOO* DEEP INTO THEIR THOUGHTS. WE DON'T WANT YOU THINKING LIKE YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.
Hmph. WE'RE WASTING TIME. LET'S GO.

SPIDER TROUPE WILL TRANSPORT THE NUKE WHILE TOWER'S PET FREAKS TAKE THE POINT.
SOUND GOOD TO YOU?
TRY NOT TO GET KILLED.
"AND HERE THEY COME. HERE HE COMES..."
"...BLACK DOOM'S GREATEST CREATION... AND EXECUTIONER."
I KNEW THIS MEETING WOULD BE INEVITABLE. I JUST ASSUMED IT WOULD BE MORE ON MY TERMS.

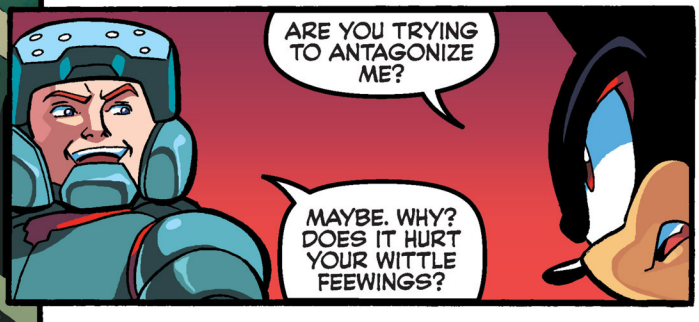

PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST. THE HUMANS WILL PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED NOURISHMENT FOR MY SMALL ARMY. IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE WE HAD A PROPER MEAL...
...ESPECIALLY SINCE WE DELAYED OURSELVES FOR THE SAKE OF *YOUR* EXPERIMENT.
THE DARK ARMS WILL MAKE US *STRONG*, MY MASTER. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, YOUR CHILDREN *NEED* STRENGTH.
TRUE ENOUGH. AND YOU...YOU WILL GET TO FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE EARLIER THAN EXPECTED. SHADOW WILL PAY FOR HIS TREASON.
OF COURSE-- *IF* HE CANNOT BE SHOWN THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE SO FEW NOW. I'D HATE TO LOSE A... BROTHER.

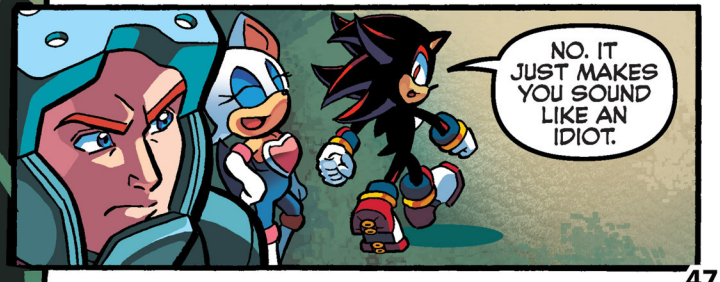

Y'KNOW, I JOKED ABOUT THERE BEING PLENTY OF ALIENS TO FIGHT...

IS OUR PROGRESSION MAKING *ANY* SENSE TO YOU?
NEGATIVE. THE STRUCTURAL DESIGN IS AS ALIEN AS THEIR TECHNOLOGY.


...BUT NOW I THINK THEY'RE HIDING JUST TO SPITE ME.

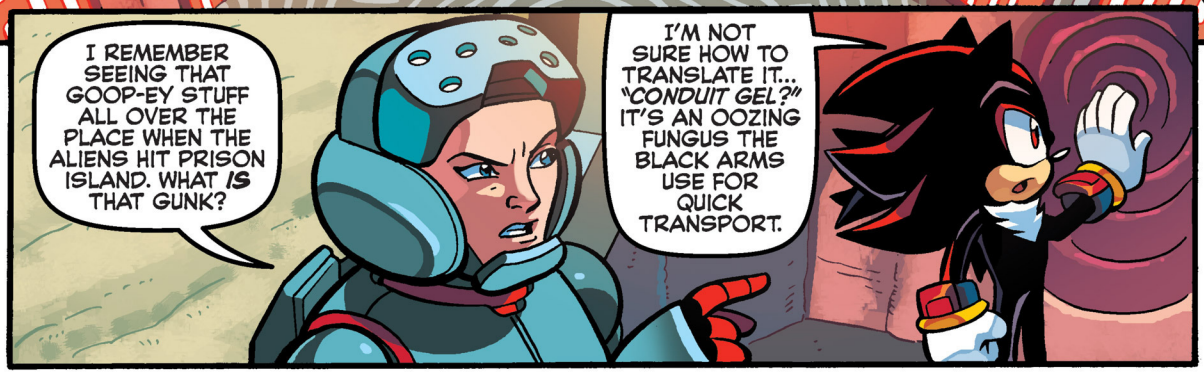
PROPOSAL: I SHOOT US A NEW HALL-WAY.
TAKE IT EASY, TIN-MAN. WE'VE GOT OUR RESIDENT ALIEN-HYBRID-THING TO SHOW US THE WAY.

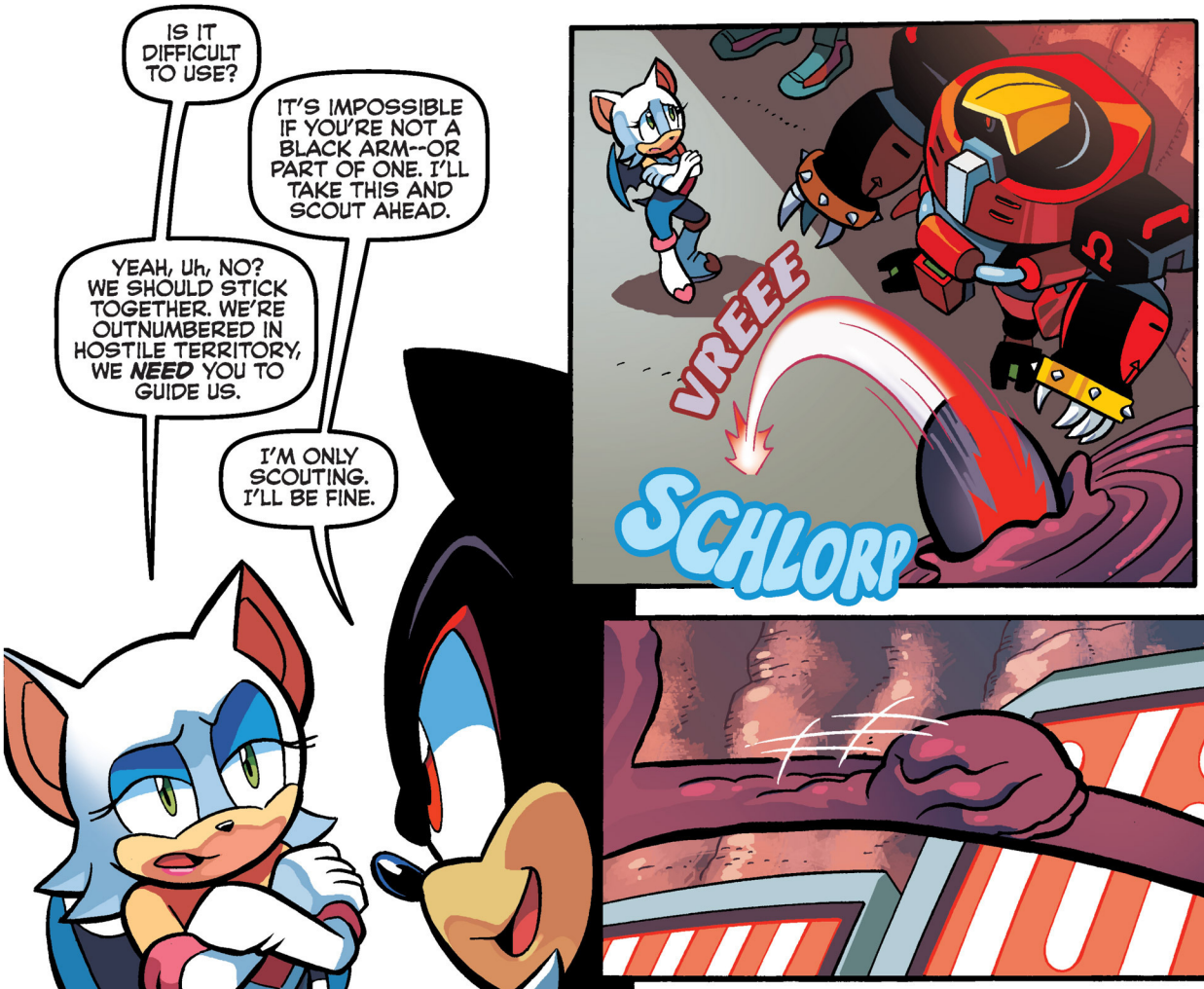

ARE YOU TRYING TO ANTAGONIZE ME?
MAYBE. WHY? DOES IT HURT YOUR WITTLE FEEWINGS?

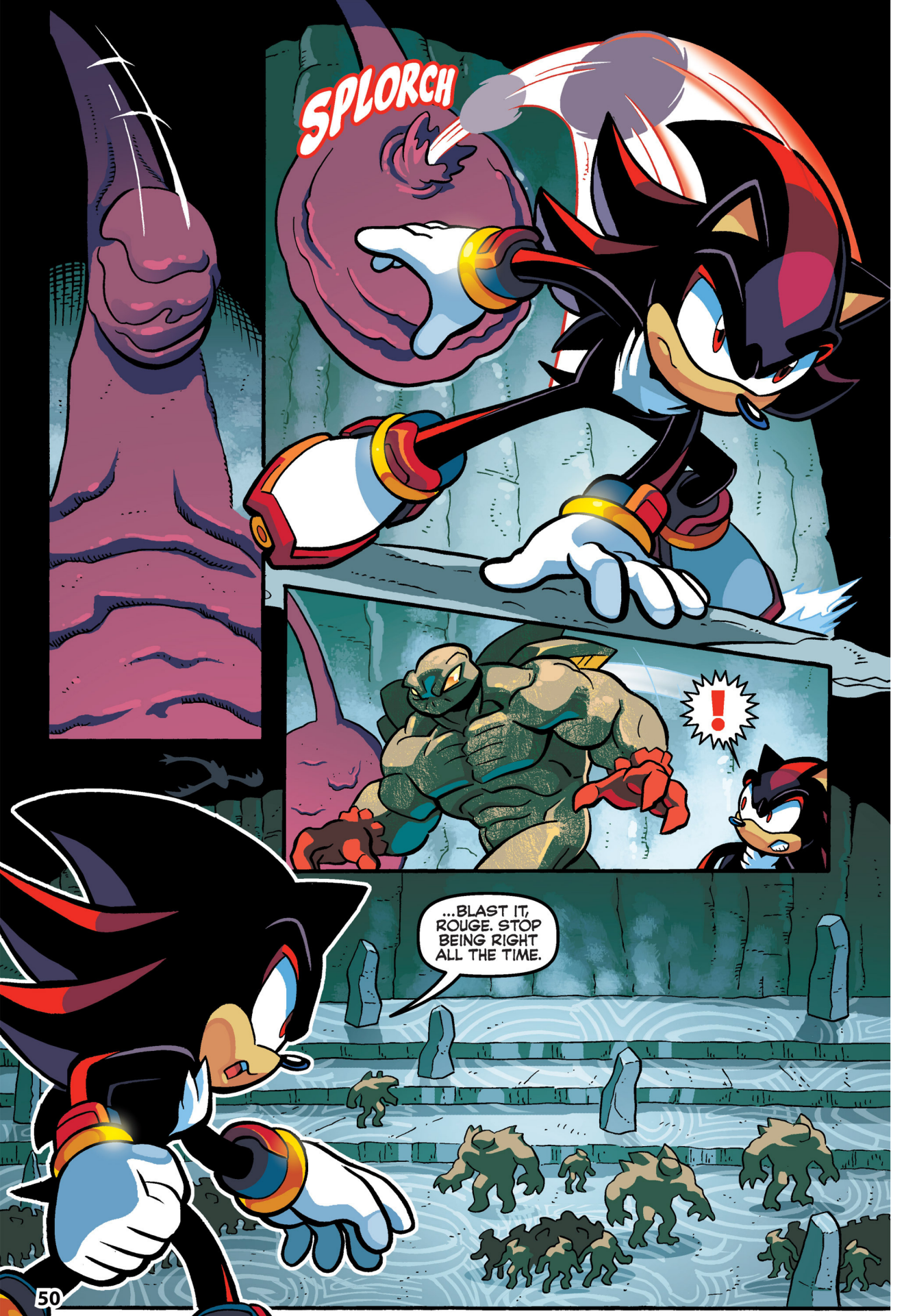

NO. IT JUST MAKES YOU SOUND LIKE AN IDIOT.

?
...SHADOW?
ARE YOU OKAY?
FINE. I'M...FINE. I WAS TRYING TO TAP INTO THE HIVE-MIND FOR... DIRECTION.
...OMEGA. I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
WHAT?
WHEN YOU TURNED ON DR. EGGMAN AND BECAME A FORCE FOR GOOD, DID YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY...WARRING AGAINST OTHER ROBOTS? YOUR OWN KIND?
NONE WHATSOEVER. I WAS BUILT TO DESTROY. DR. EGGMAN KEEPS BUILDING HIS INFERIOR ROBOTS, I KEEP DESTROYING THEM. I AM CONTENT.
WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR QUERY?
...NO REASON. FORGET I ASKED.

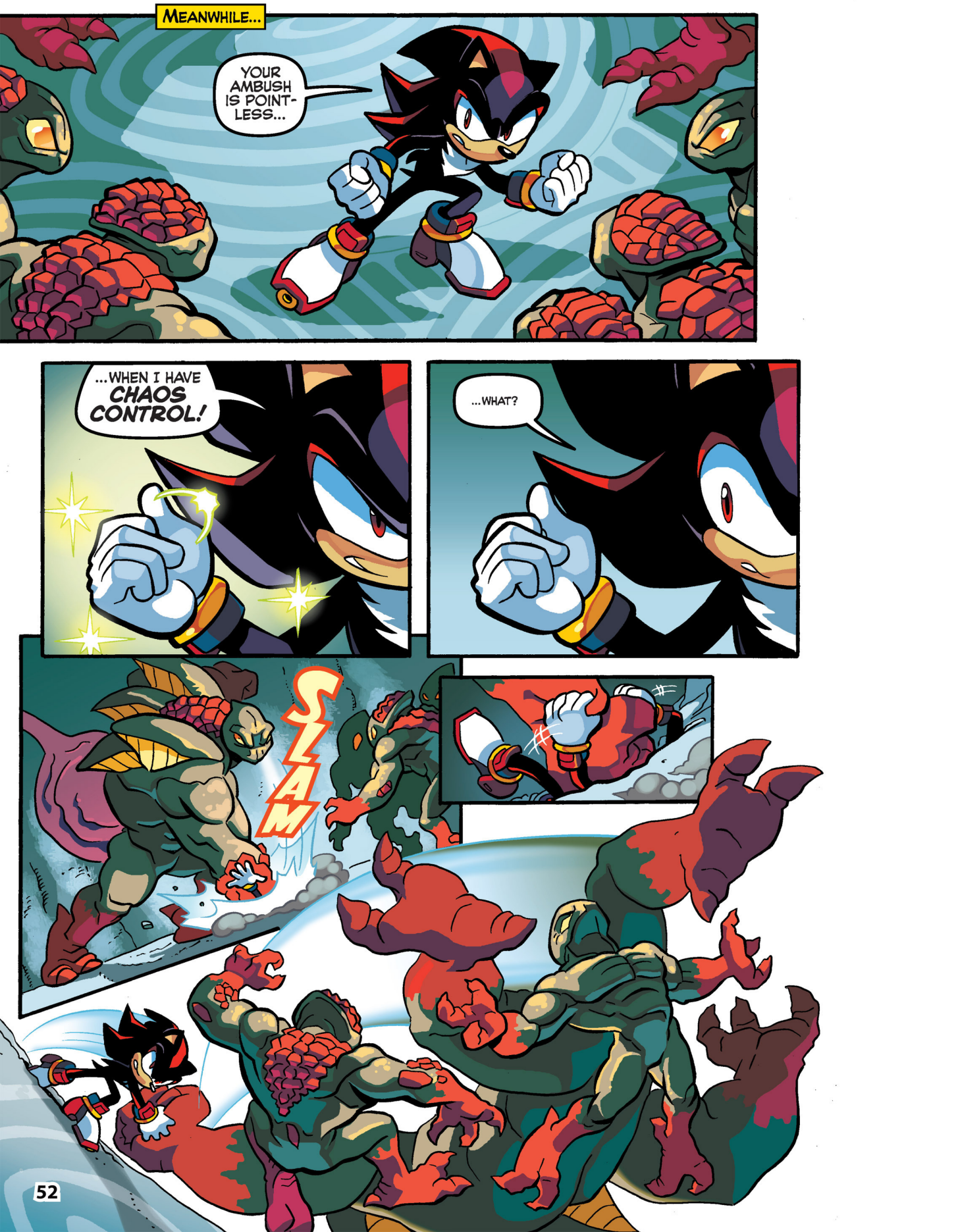
DEAD END. COULD THE BLACK ARMS BE MESSING WITH YOU? SENDING YOU FALSE INFORMATION?
Hmmm...


I REMEMBER SEEING THAT GOOP-EY STUFF ALL OVER THE PLACE WHEN THE ALIENS HIT PRISON ISLAND. WHAT *IS* THAT GUNK?
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO TRANSLATE IT... *"CONDUIT GEL?"* IT'S AN OOZING FUNGUS THE BLACK ARMS USE FOR QUICK TRANSPORT.


IS IT DIFFICULT TO USE?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU'RE NOT A BLACK ARM--OR PART OF ONE. I'LL TAKE THIS AND SCOUT AHEAD.
YEAH, Uh, NO? WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER. WE'RE OUTNUMBERED IN HOSTILE TERRITORY, WE *NEED* YOU TO GUIDE US.
I'M ONLY SCOUTING. I'LL BE FINE.
VREEE
SCHLORP


SPLORCH
!
...BLAST IT, ROUGE. STOP BEING RIGHT ALL THE TIME.

SCHWOOP
SAFETIES OFF! WE'VE GOT INCOMING!
NEGATIVE--NO ALIEN LIFE SIGNS DETECTED. HOWEVER, I'M READING TRACE ELEMENTS OF AN AEROSOL NEUROTOXIN. TEN PARTS PER MILLION ...THIRTY PARTS... RISING...
THEY'RE GOING TO GAS US!
WORSE! THEY DID THIS TO US ON THE FIRST BLACK COMET!
WHAT'S WORSE THAN BEING GASSED?!
THE GAS ISN'T TO KILL US! IT'S GOING TO PARALYZE US SO THEY CAN EAT US!


MEANWHILE...
YOUR AMBUSH IS POINT-LESS...
...WHEN I HAVE CHAOS CONTROL!
...WHAT?
SLAM

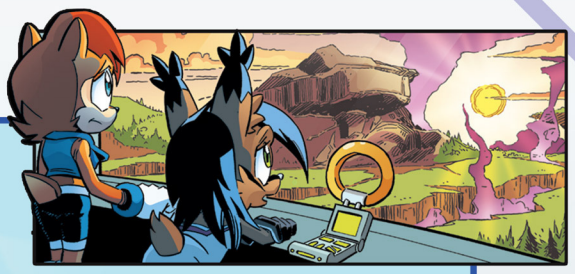
HOLD ON! HOLD ON! WE DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM IF WE DON'T HAVE TO!
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

ME? I AM YOU, IN A WAY.
A LIVING WEAPON, BUILT FOR A SINGULAR PURPOSE. THE BLACK ARM BIOLOGY--PERFECTED. I AM THE SHADOW THAT BLOCKS OUT THE LAST LIGHT OF HOPE.
I AM ECLIPSE THE DARKLING.
WHO IS ECLIPSE? WHAT IS HIS TIE TO SHADOW? HOW WILL ROUGE, OMEGA AND G.U.N. ESCAPE THEIR TRAP? IS THE WORLD DOOMED TO ALIEN INVASION?
DON'T MISS ALL THE ANSWERS AND THE ACTION CONTINUED IN SONIC UNIVERSE #60!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

CONTROL

PREVIOUSLY



THE WORLD'S CRUST HAS **BROKEN APART!** SONIC AND **THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS** ARE IN SEARCH OF THE SEVEN **CHAOS EMERALDS** AND **GAIA TEMPLES.** WITH THEIR POWER, OUR HEROES HOPE TO RETURN THE WORLD TO **NORMAL**!

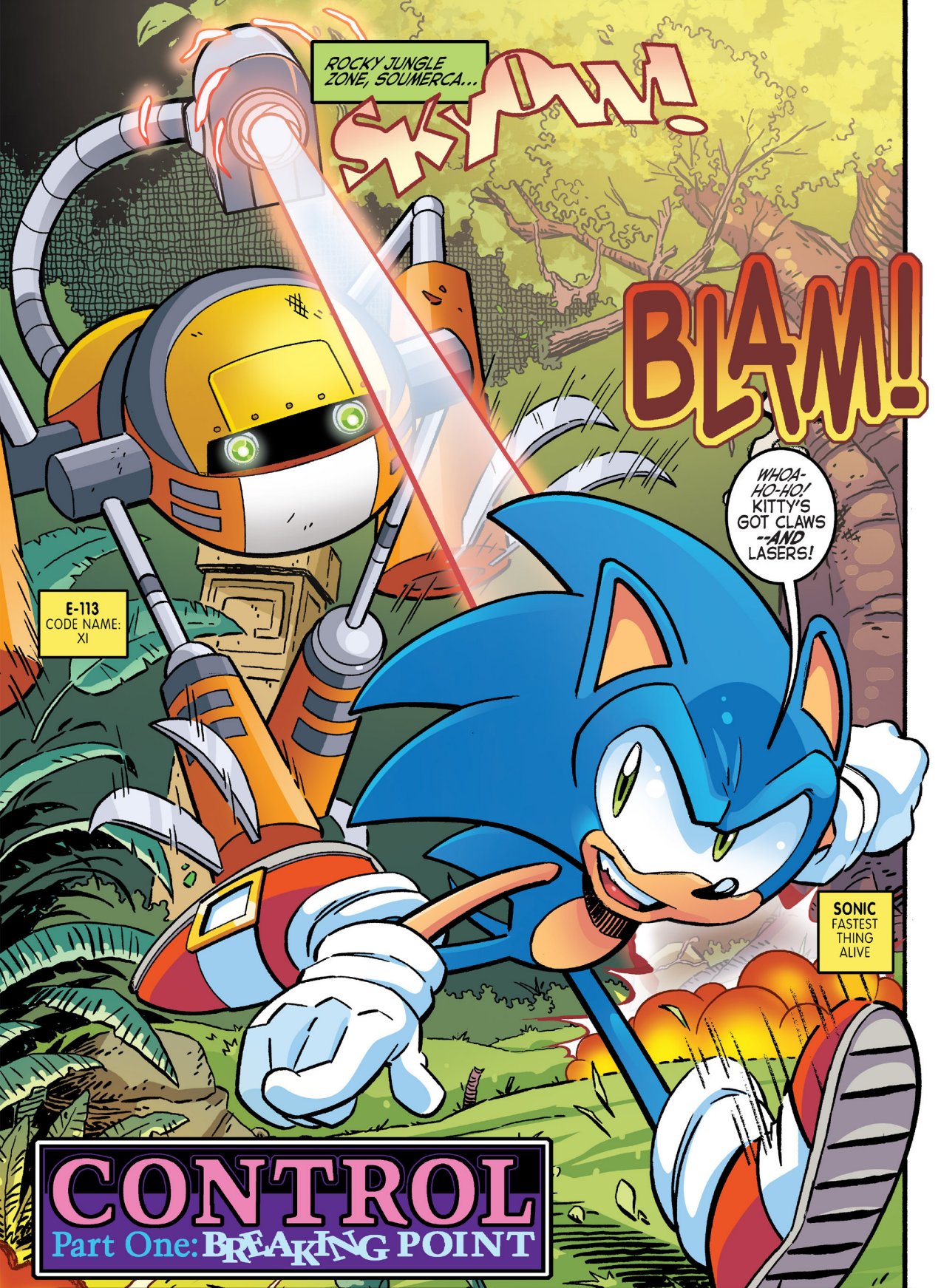
THE ESSENCE OF DARK GAIA IS SEEPING THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE EARTH. THIS CORRUPTING MUCK CREATES **TERRIFYING MONSTERS** EVERY NIGHT AND DARKENS THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THOSE EXPOSED TO IT.

SONIC RECEIVED A FACE-FULL OF CONCENTRATED DARK GAIA ENERGY DAYS AGO. HE SWEARS HE'S FINE, BUT **SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT...**

DID YOU KNOW...

The events surrounding the shattered world crisis are based on the 2008 video game *Sonic Unleased!* The difference was night and day, where Sonic would be his speedy-self in the daytime and transform into a vicious beast known as the "Werehog" at night!

SPAZ



CONTROL
Part One: BREAKING POINT

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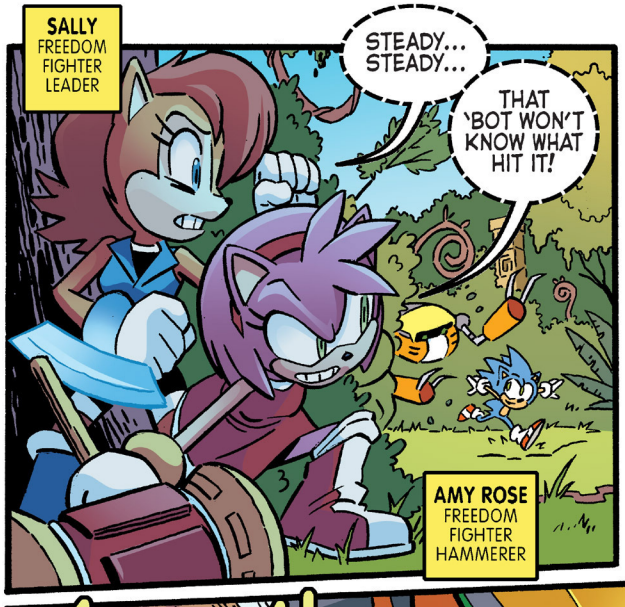
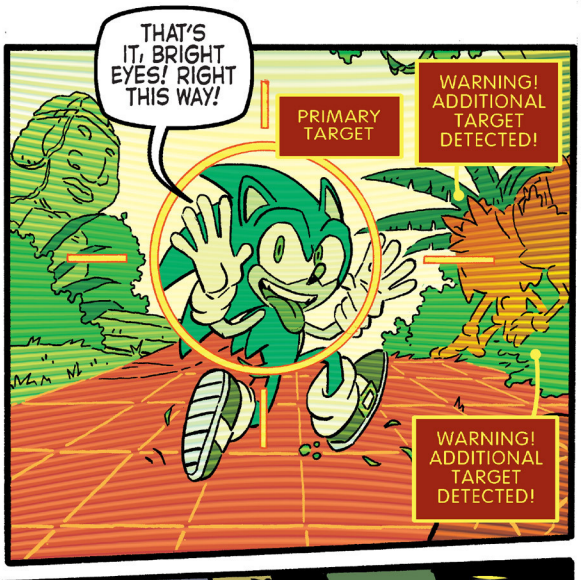
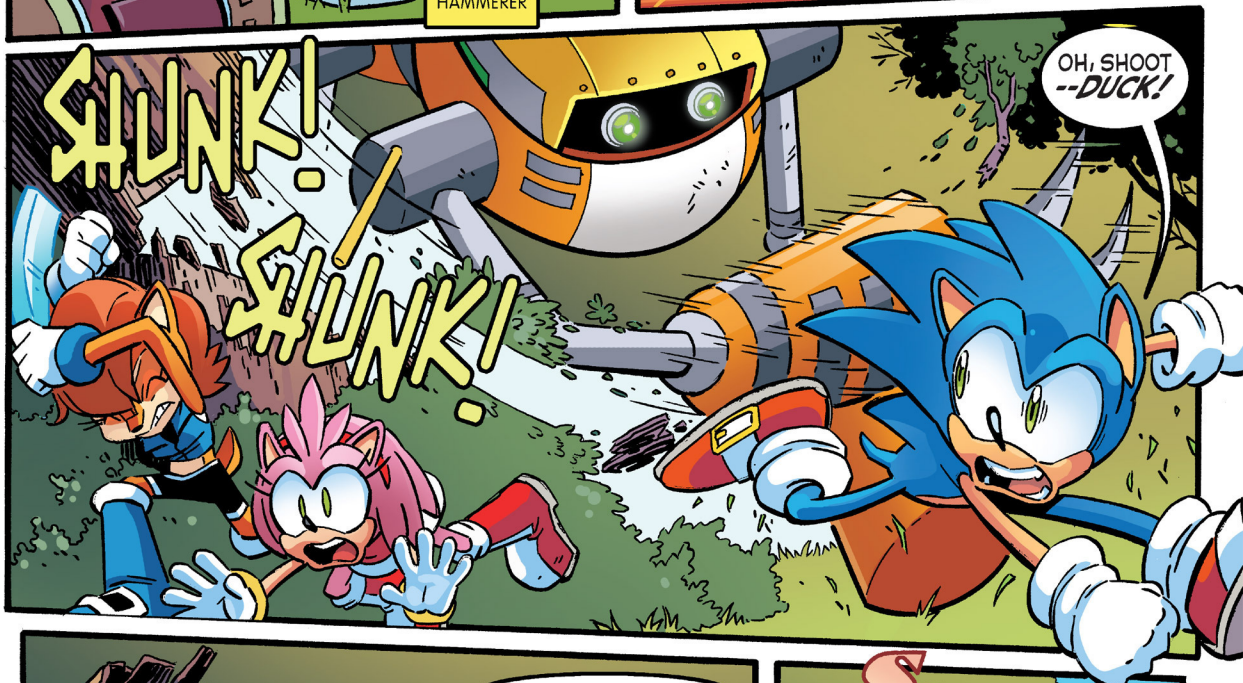
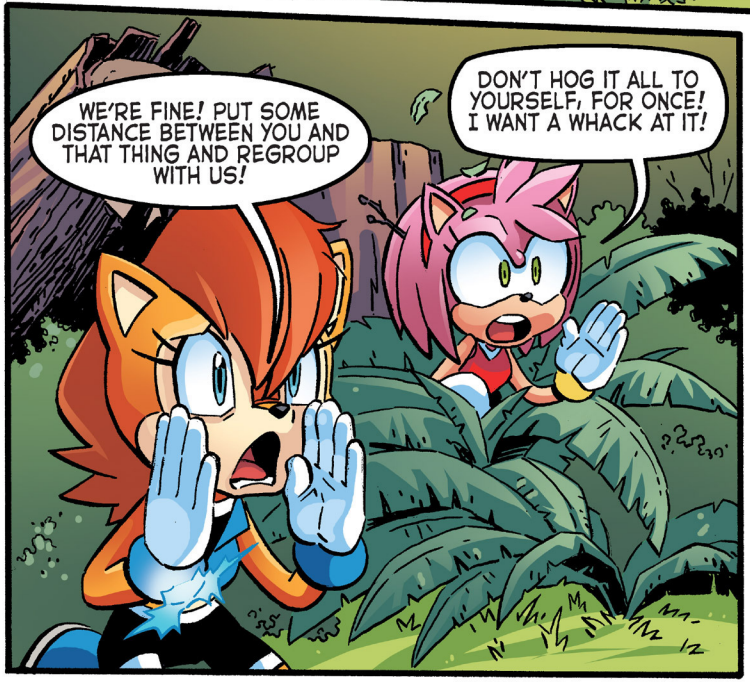
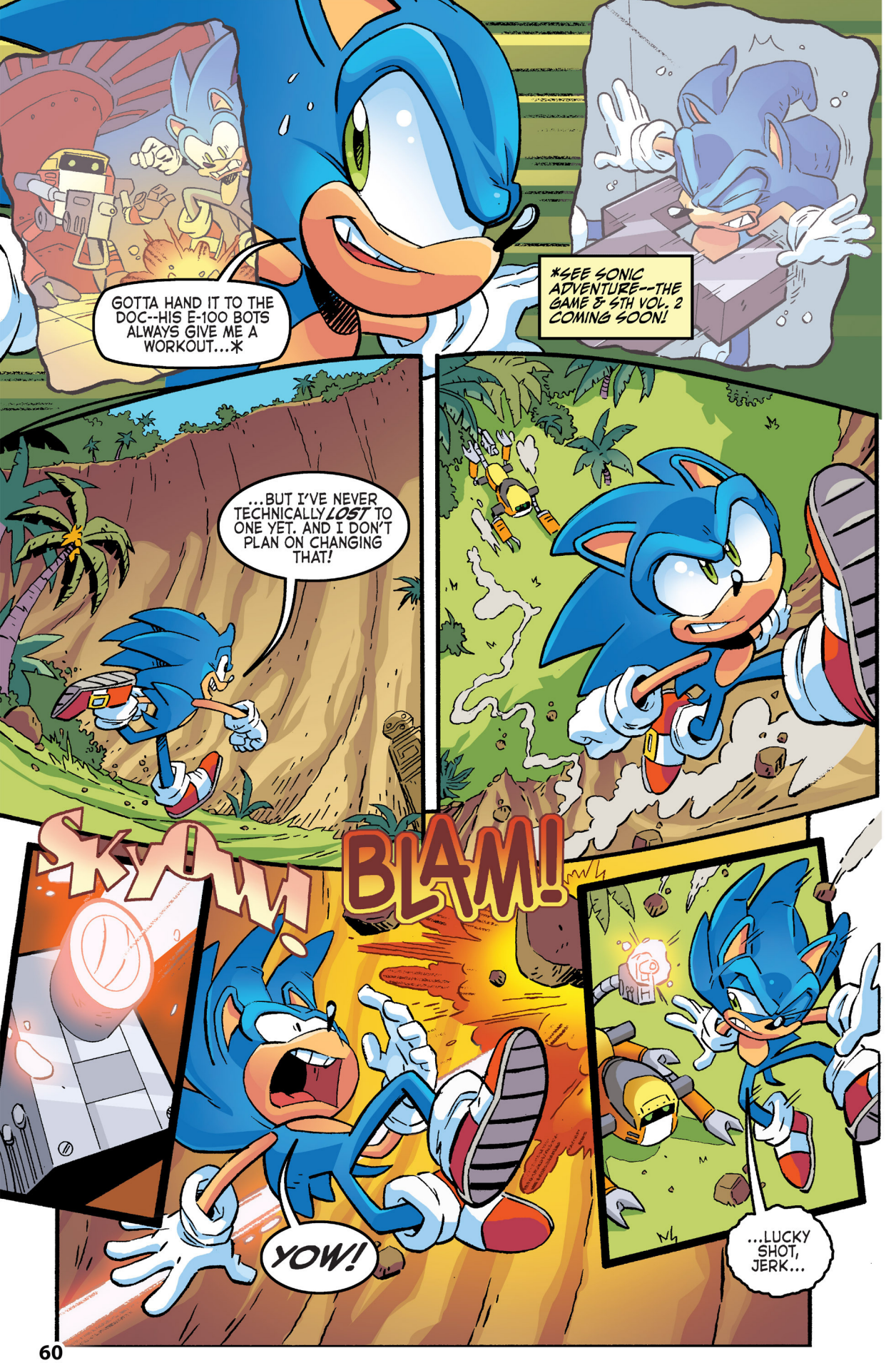

SALLY
FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER
STEADY... STEADY...
THAT 'BOT WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT IT!
AMY ROSE
FREEDOM FIGHTER HAMMERER

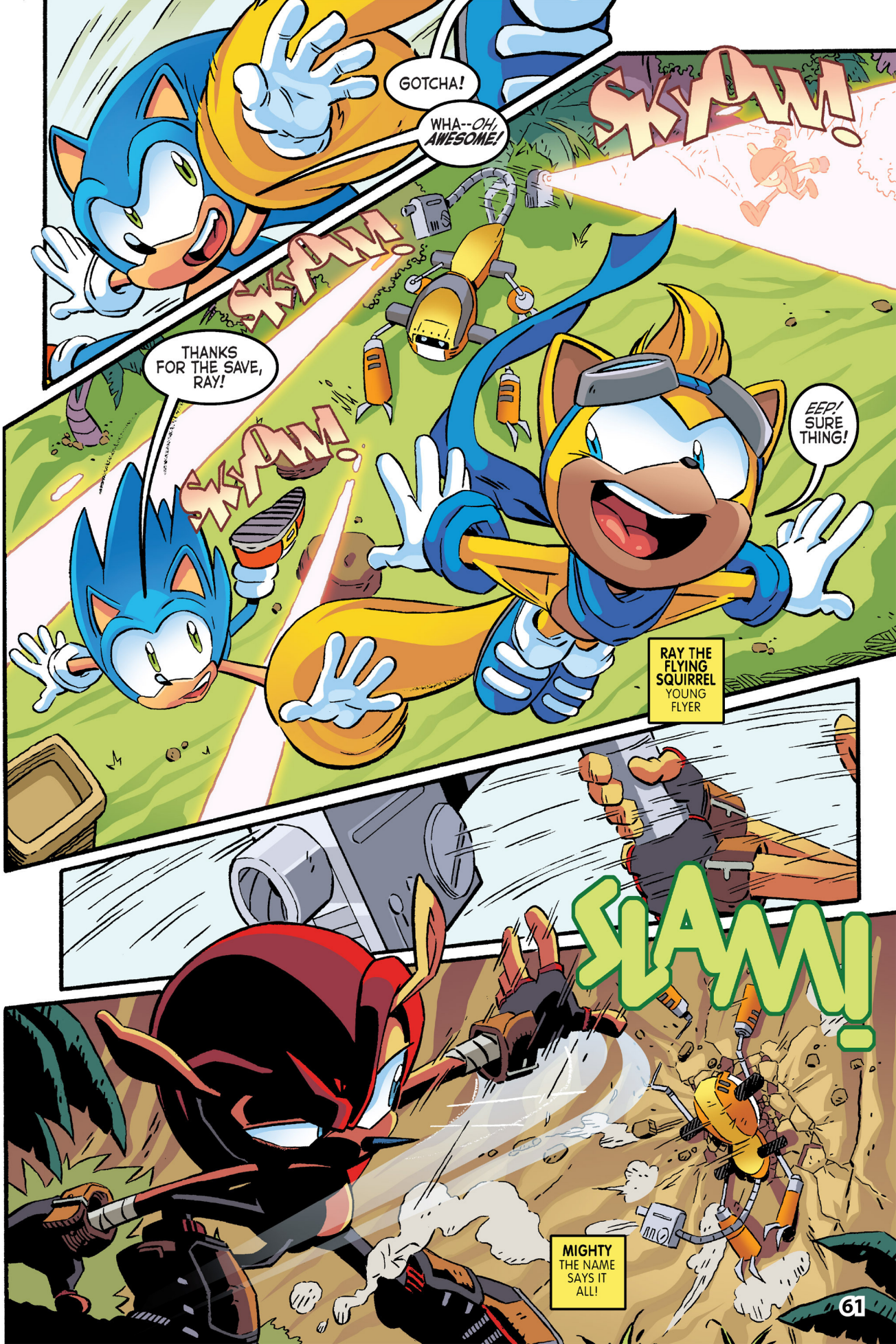

THAT'S IT, BRIGHT EYES! RIGHT THIS WAY!
PRIMARY TARGET
WARNING! ADDITIONAL TARGET DETECTED!
WARNING! ADDITIONAL TARGET DETECTED!

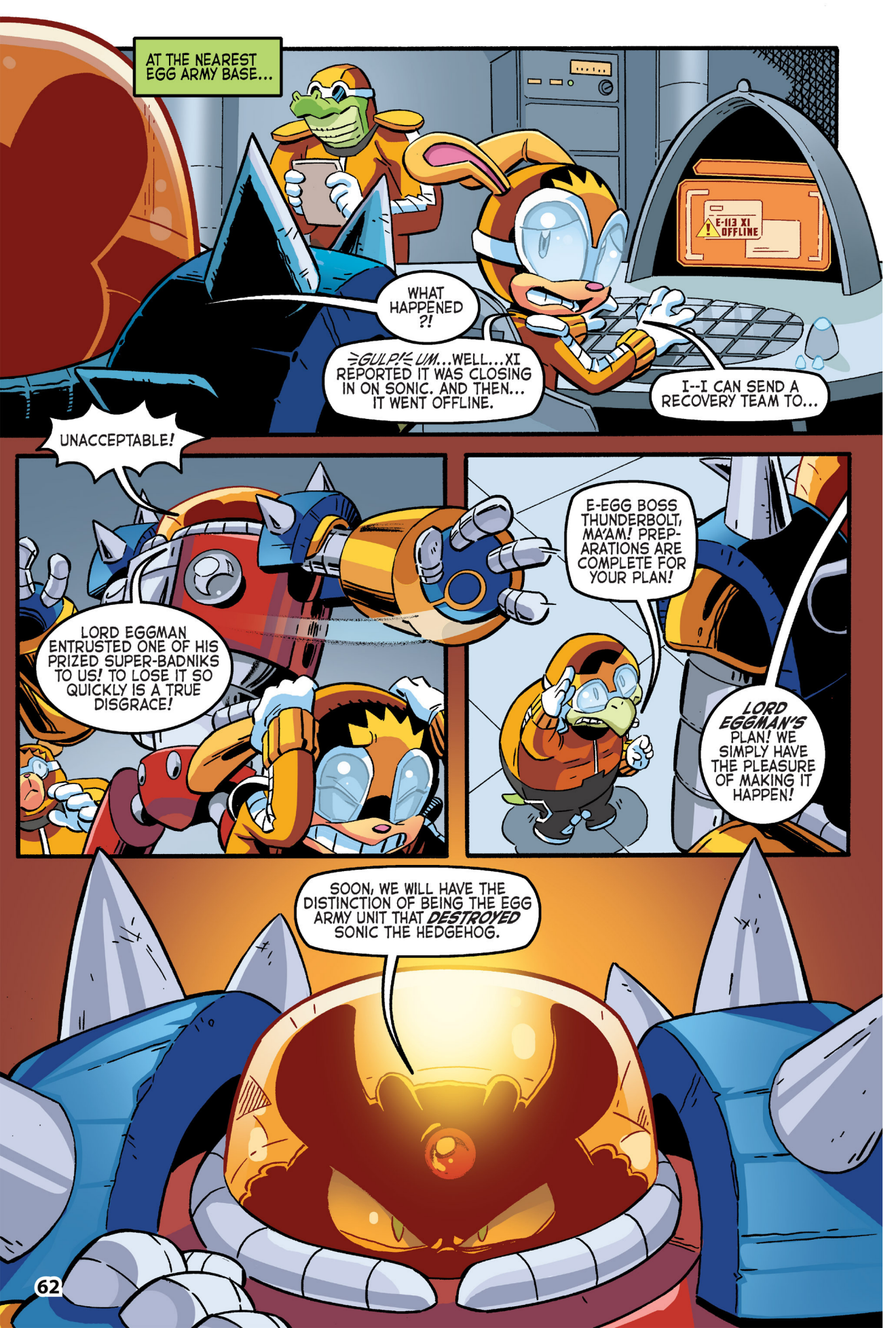

SHUNK!
SHUNK!
OH, SHOOT --DUCK!

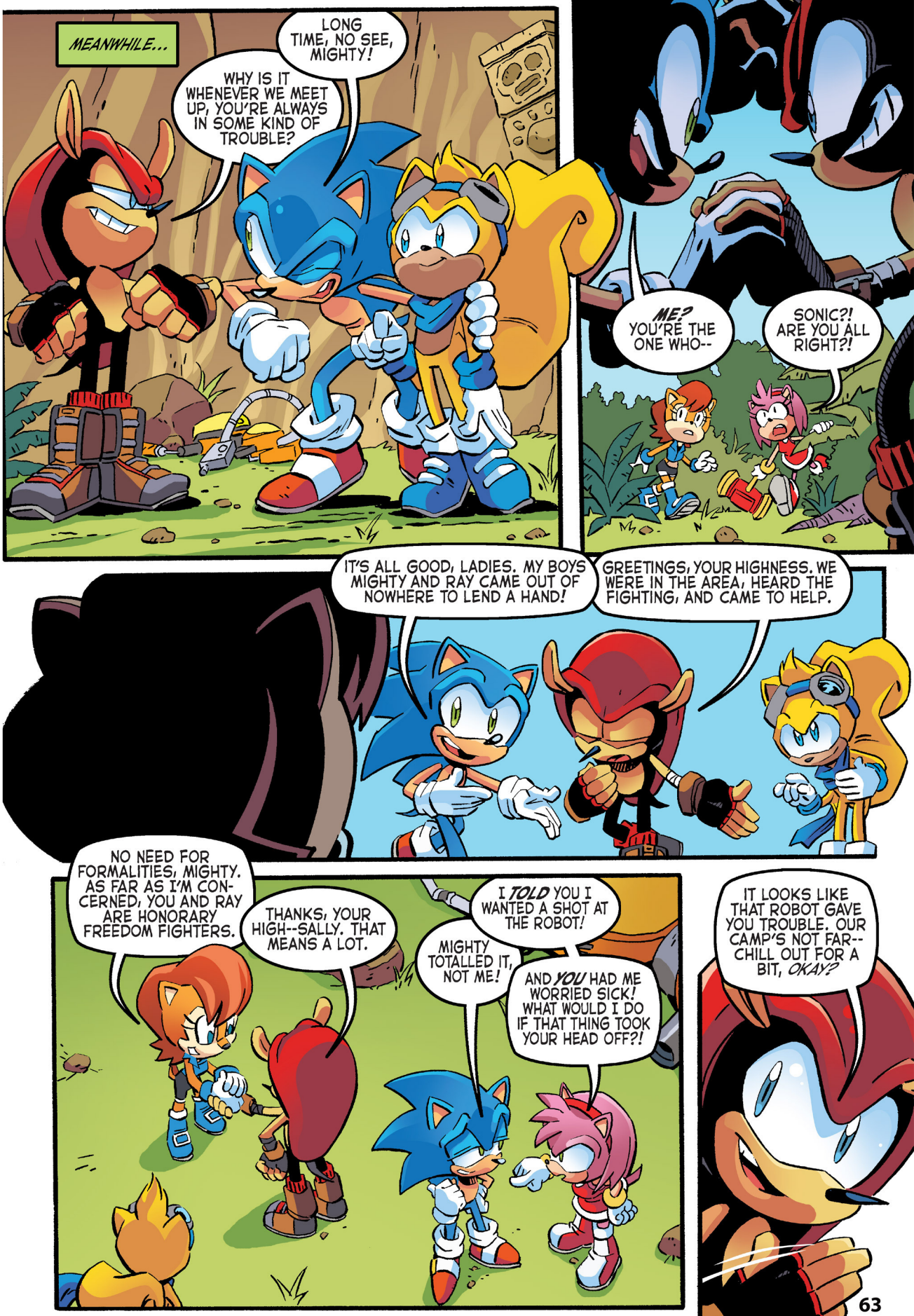

WE'RE FINE! PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THAT THING AND REGROUP WITH US!
DON'T HOG IT ALL TO YOURSELF, FOR ONCE! I WANT A WHACK AT IT!

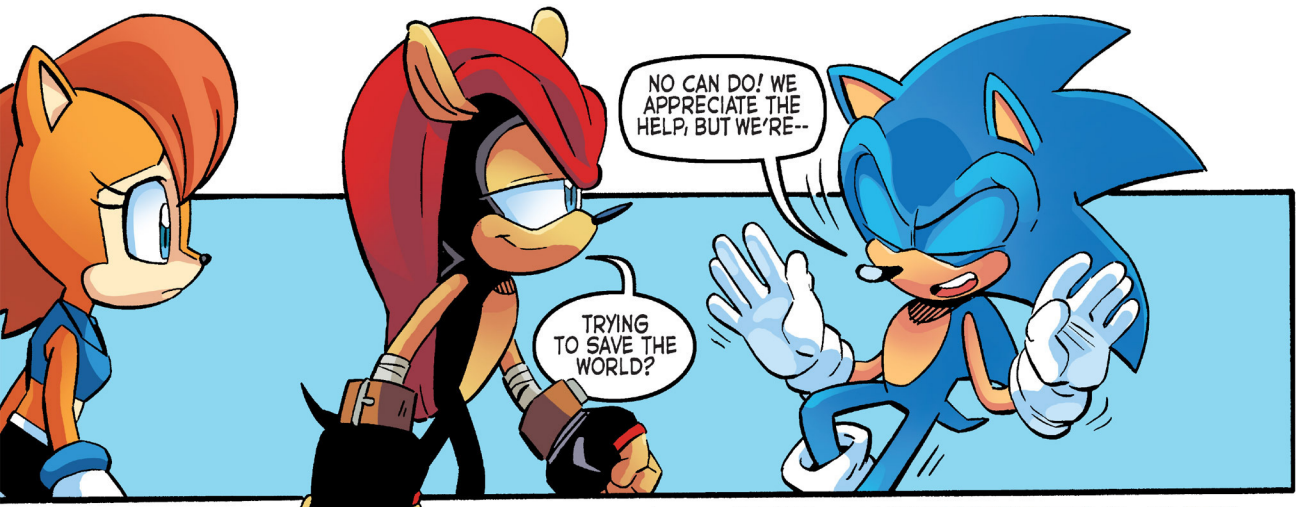
SKWAM!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, LADIES!

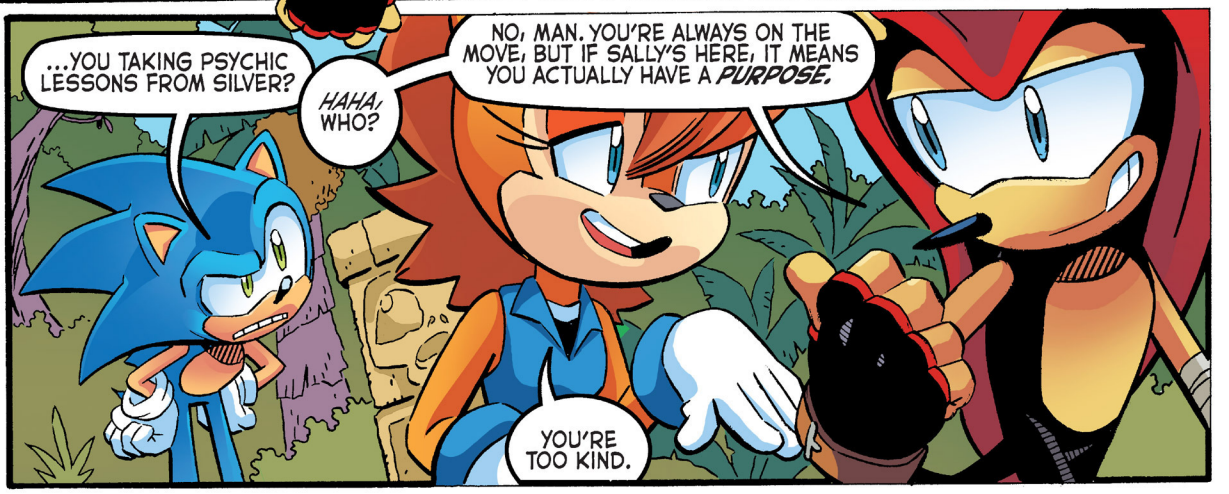

GOTTA HAND IT TO THE DOC--HIS E-100 BOTS ALWAYS GIVE ME A WORKOUT...*
*SEE SONIC ADVENTURE--THE GAME & STH VOL. 2 COMING SOON!
...BUT I'VE NEVER TECHNICALLY LOST TO ONE YET. AND I DON'T PLAN ON CHANGING THAT!
KA-WHAM!
BLAM!
YOW!
...LUCKY SHOT, JERK...

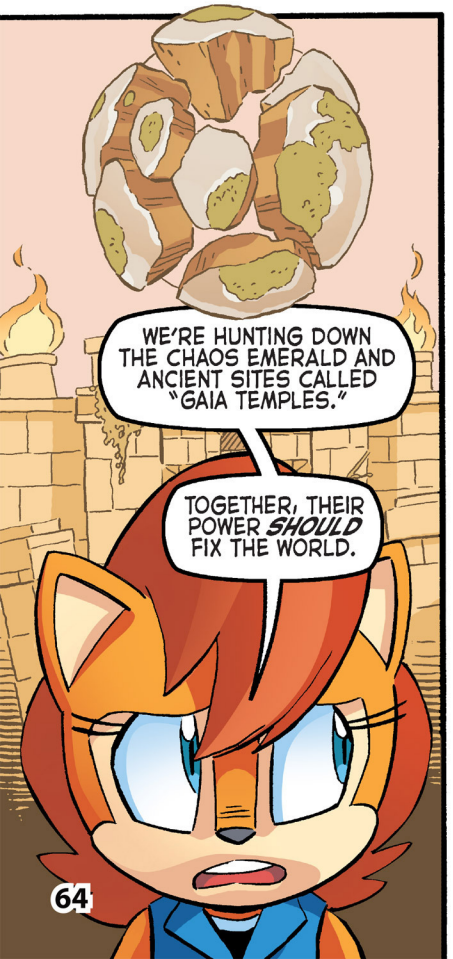

GOTCHA!
WHA--OH, AWESOME!
SKYAW!
SKYAW!
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, RAY!
SKYAW!
EEP! SURE THING!
RAY THE FLYING SQUIRREL
YOUNG FLYER
SLAM!
MIGHTY
THE NAME SAYS IT ALL!


AT THE NEAREST EGG ARMY BASE...
E-113 XI OFFLINE
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
≥GULP!≤ UM...WELL...XI REPORTED IT WAS CLOSING IN ON SONIC. AND THEN... IT WENT OFFLINE.
I--I CAN SEND A RECOVERY TEAM TO...
UNACCEPTABLE!
LORD EGGMAN ENTRUSTED ONE OF HIS PRIZED SUPER-BADNIKS TO US! TO LOSE IT SO QUICKLY IS A TRUE DISGRACE!
E-EGG BOSS THUNDERBOLT, MA'AM! PREP-ARATIONS ARE COMPLETE FOR YOUR PLAN!
LORD EGGMAN'S PLAN! WE SIMPLY HAVE THE PLEASURE OF MAKING IT HAPPEN!
SOON, WE WILL HAVE THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE EGG ARMY UNIT THAT DESTROYED SONIC THE HEDGEHOG.

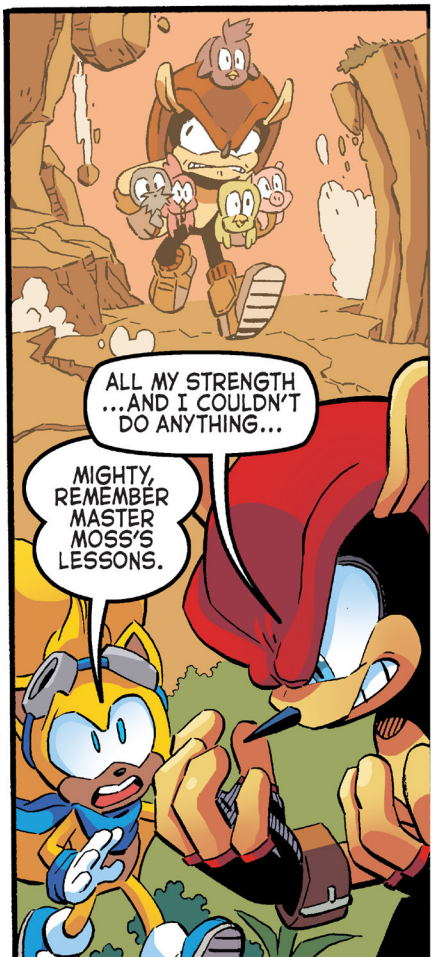

MEANWHILE...
LONG TIME, NO SEE, MIGHTY!
WHY IS IT WHENEVER WE MEET UP, YOU'RE ALWAYS IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?
ME? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO--
SONIC?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
IT'S ALL GOOD, LADIES. MY BOYS MIGHTY AND RAY CAME OUT OF NOWHERE TO LEND A HAND!
GREETINGS, YOUR HIGHNESS. WE WERE IN THE AREA, HEARD THE FIGHTING, AND CAME TO HELP.
NO NEED FOR FORMALITIES, MIGHTY. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU AND RAY ARE HONORARY FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
THANKS, YOUR HIGH--SALLY. THAT MEANS A LOT.
I TOLD YOU I WANTED A SHOT AT THE ROBOT!
MIGHTY TOTALLED IT, NOT ME!
AND YOU HAD ME WORRIED SICK! WHAT WOULD I DO IF THAT THING TOOK YOUR HEAD OFF?!
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT ROBOT GAVE YOU TROUBLE. OUR CAMP'S NOT FAR--CHILL OUT FOR A BIT, OKAY?

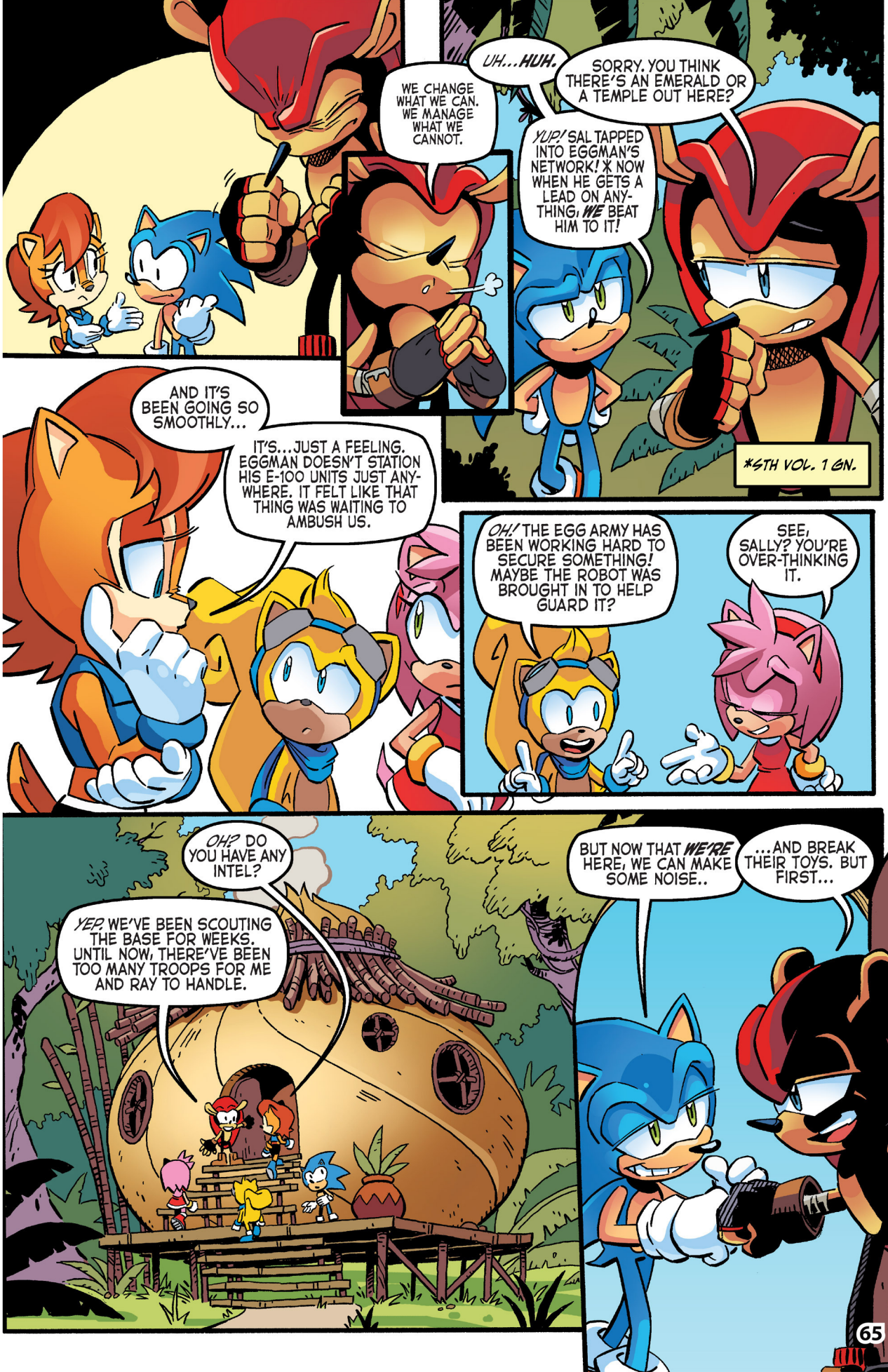

NO CAN DO! WE APPRECIATE THE HELP, BUT WE'RE--
TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD?

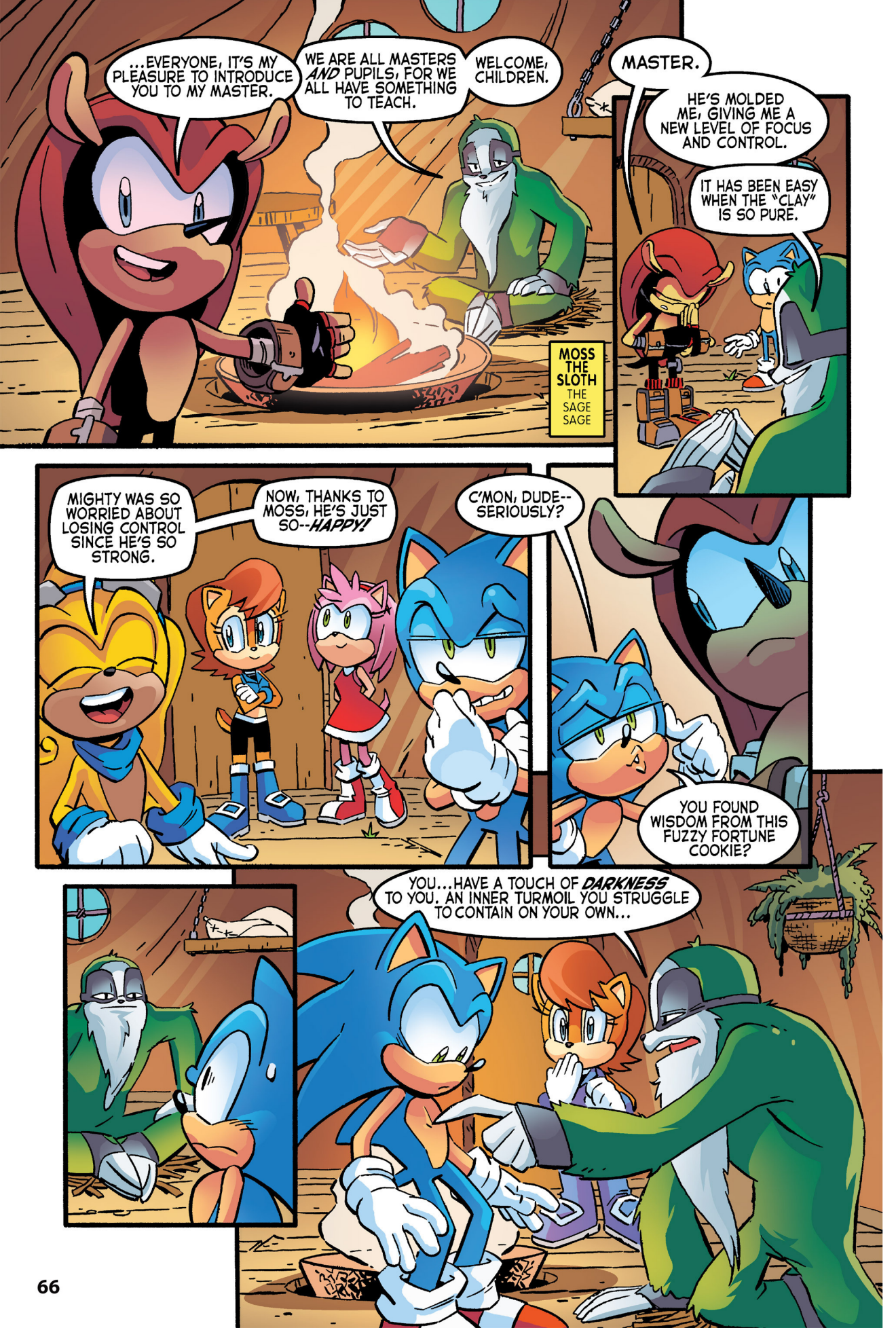

...YOU TAKING PSYCHIC LESSONS FROM SILVER?
HAHA, WHO?
NO, MAN. YOU'RE ALWAYS ON THE MOVE, BUT IF SALLY'S HERE, IT MEANS YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A *PURPOSE.*
YOU'RE TOO KIND.

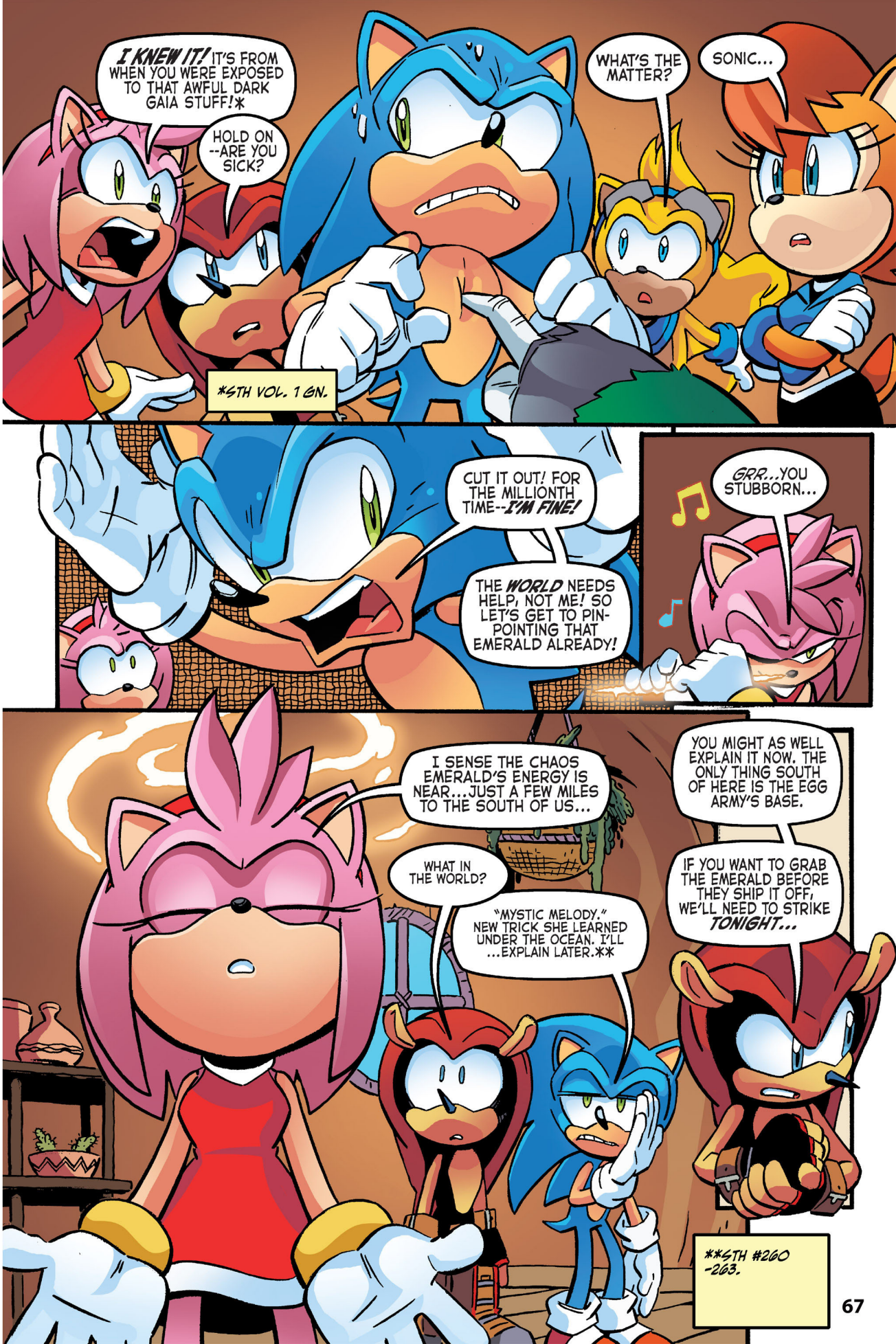

WE'RE HUNTING DOWN THE CHAOS EMERALD AND ANCIENT SITES CALLED "GAIA TEMPLES."
TOGETHER, THEIR POWER *SHOULD* FIX THE WORLD.

UGH... WHEN THE WORLD BROKE APART, IT WAS TERRIFYING! ENTIRE CHUNKS OF THE JUNGLE JUST... *FALLING* INTO NOTHING...

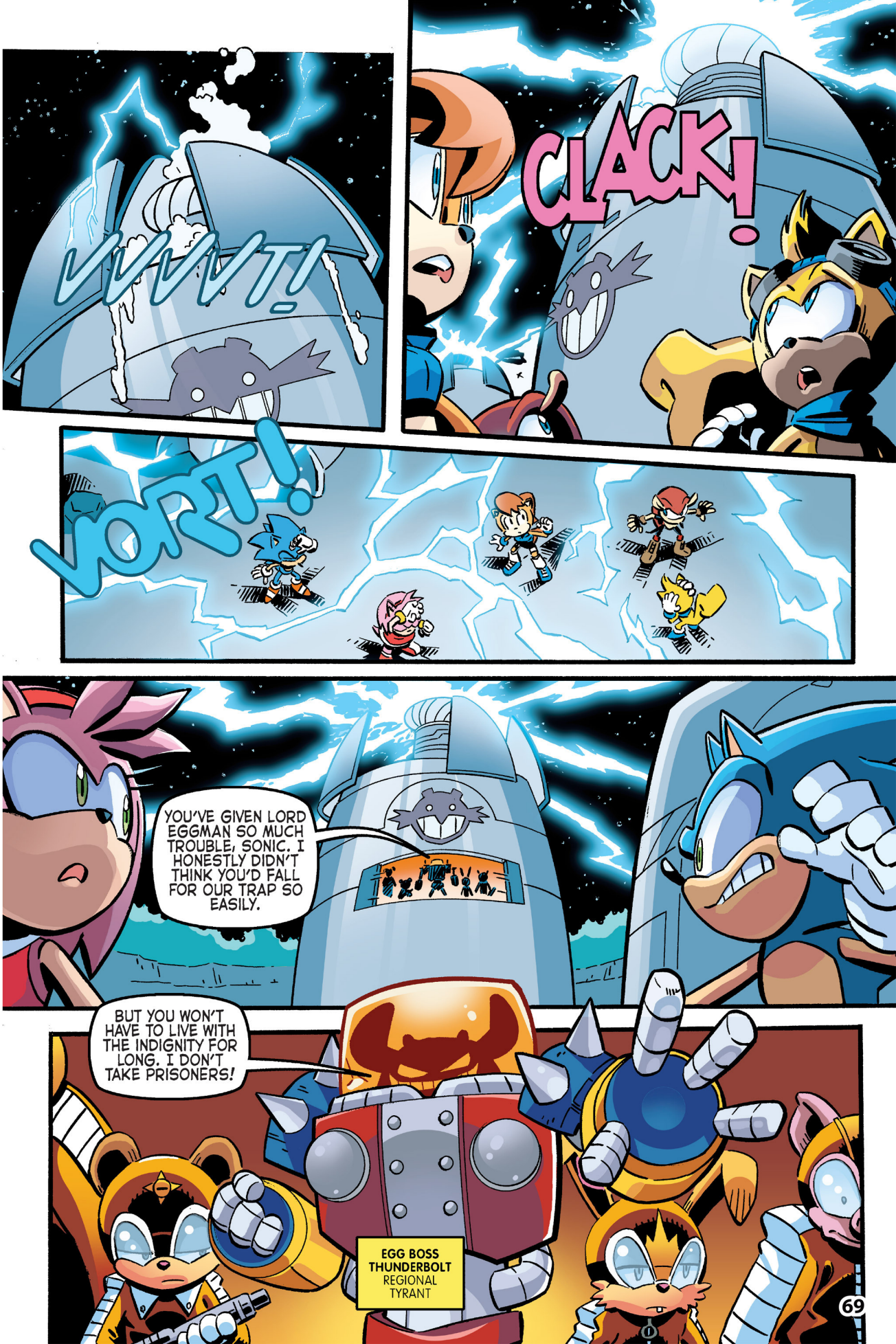

ALL MY STRENGTH ...AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...
MIGHTY, REMEMBER MASTER MOSS'S LESSONS.


WE CHANGE WHAT WE CAN. WE MANAGE WHAT WE CANNOT.
UH...HUH.
SORRY. YOU THINK THERE'S AN EMERALD OR A TEMPLE OUT HERE?
YUP! SAL TAPPED INTO EGGMAN'S NETWORK! X NOW WHEN HE GETS A LEAD ON ANY-THING, WE BEAT HIM TO IT!
*5TH VOL. 1 GN.
AND IT'S BEEN GOING SO SMOOTHLY...
IT'S...JUST A FEELING. EGGMAN DOESN'T STATION HIS E-100 UNITS JUST ANY-WHERE. IT FELT LIKE THAT THING WAS WAITING TO AMBUSH US.
OH! THE EGG ARMY HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO SECURE SOMETHING! MAYBE THE ROBOT WAS BROUGHT IN TO HELP GUARD IT?
SEE, SALLY? YOU'RE OVER-THINKING IT.
OH? DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEL?
YEP. WE'VE BEEN SCOUTING THE BASE FOR WEEKS. UNTIL NOW, THERE'VE BEEN TOO MANY TROOPS FOR ME AND RAY TO HANDLE.
BUT NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, WE CAN MAKE SOME NOISE..
...AND BREAK THEIR TOYS. BUT FIRST...

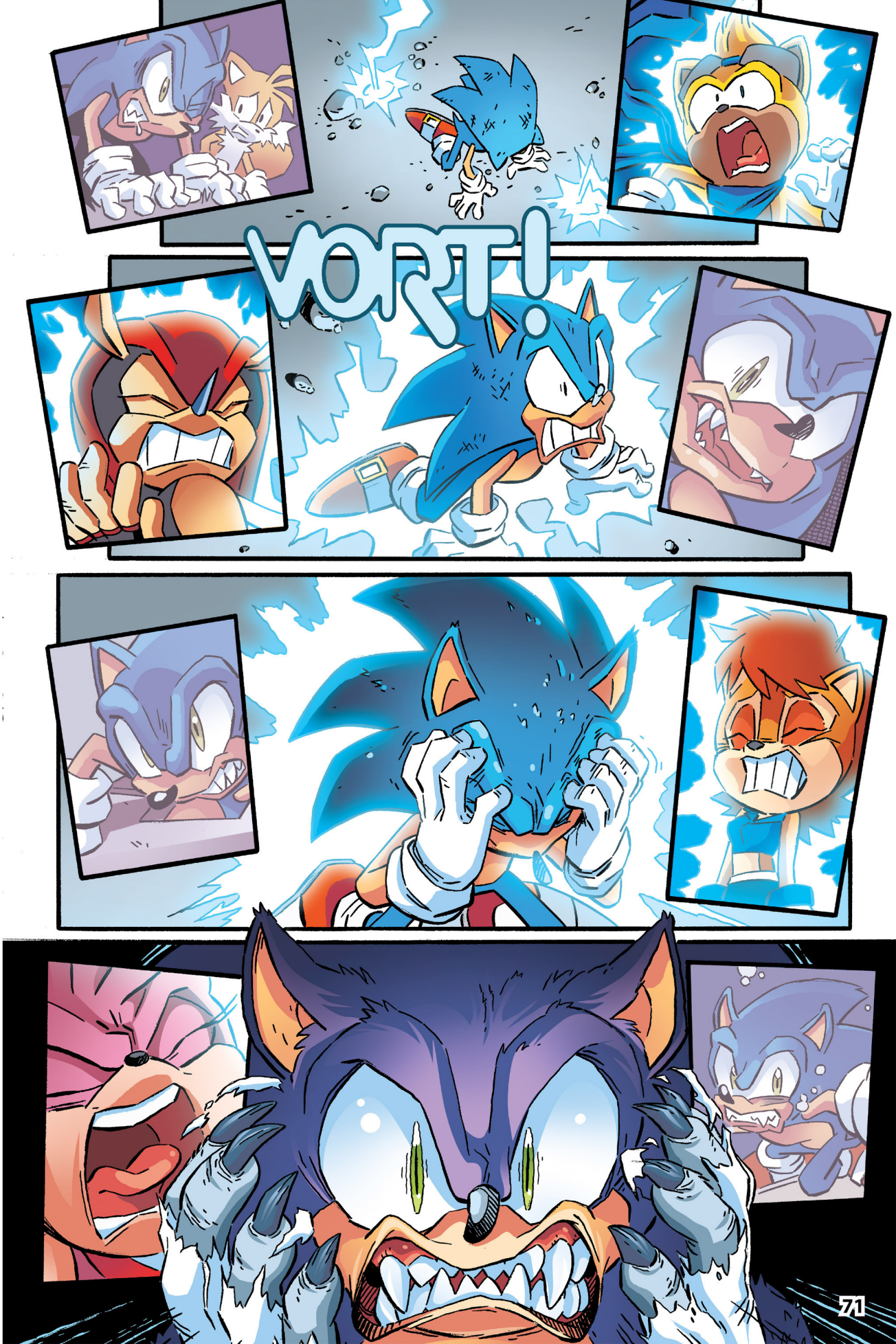

...EVERYONE, IT'S MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY MASTER.
WE ARE ALL MASTERS *AND* PUPILS, FOR WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO TEACH.
WELCOME, CHILDREN.
MOSS THE SLOTH THE SAGE SAGE
MASTER.
HE'S MOLDED ME, GIVING ME A NEW LEVEL OF FOCUS AND CONTROL.
IT HAS BEEN EASY WHEN THE "CLAY" IS SO PURE.
MIGHTY WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT LOSING CONTROL SINCE HE'S SO STRONG.
NOW, THANKS TO MOSS, HE'S JUST SO--*HAPPY!*
C'MON, DUDE--SERIOUSLY?
YOU FOUND WISDOM FROM THIS FUZZY FORTUNE COOKIE?
YOU...HAVE A TOUCH OF *DARKNESS* TO YOU. AN INNER TURMOIL YOU STRUGGLE TO CONTAIN ON YOUR OWN...


I KNEW IT! IT'S FROM WHEN YOU WERE EXPOSED TO THAT AWFUL DARK GAIA STUFF!*
HOLD ON --ARE YOU SICK?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SONIC...
*STH VOL. 1 GN.
CUT IT OUT! FOR THE MILLIONTH TIME--I'M FINE!
THE WORLD NEEDS HELP, NOT ME! SO LET'S GET TO PIN-POINTING THAT EMERALD ALREADY!
GRR...YOU STUBBORN...
I SENSE THE CHAOS EMERALD'S ENERGY IS NEAR...JUST A FEW MILES TO THE SOUTH OF US...
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
"MYSTIC MELODY." NEW TRICK SHE LEARNED UNDER THE OCEAN. I'LL ...EXPLAIN LATER.**
YOU MIGHT AS WELL EXPLAIN IT NOW. THE ONLY THING SOUTH OF HERE IS THE EGG ARMY'S BASE.
IF YOU WANT TO GRAB THE EMERALD BEFORE THEY SHIP IT OFF, WE'LL NEED TO STRIKE TONIGHT...
**STH #260 -263.

"...AND MONSTERS COME OUT IN THE DARK. SO REST UP."
THAT NIGHT--EGG ARMY DIG SITE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG. SECURITY IS TOO LIGHT...
'CAUSE WE ALREADY TOOK OUT THE SUPER-BADNIK!
BUT THEY SHOULD STILL BE GUARDING AGAINST THE DARK GAIA MONSTERS!
FINE--THEN WE'RE AMBUSHING THEM NOW! WOO!
SONIC! THAT WASN'T THE PLAN!
VREEE!
PIKO!
OR...THE EGG ARMY IS ALL ASLEEP? EITHER WAY--WE WON. SO LET'S GRAB THE EMERALD AND--


VVVVT!
CLACK!
VORT!
YOU'VE GIVEN LORD EGGMAN SO MUCH TROUBLE, SONIC. I HONESTLY DIDN'T THINK YOU'D FALL FOR OUR TRAP SO EASILY.
BUT YOU WON'T HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE INDIGNITY FOR LONG. I DON'T TAKE PRISONERS!
EGG BOSS THUNDERBOLT
REGIONAL TYRANT

VORT!
AHHH!
RAY!
VORT!
RAY! I'M--
RRRRGHG!
SONIC! WE'VE GOT TO--!
VORT!
SONIC-- AHHH!
VORT!


VORT!

AAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRGGG

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

LOCKDOWN

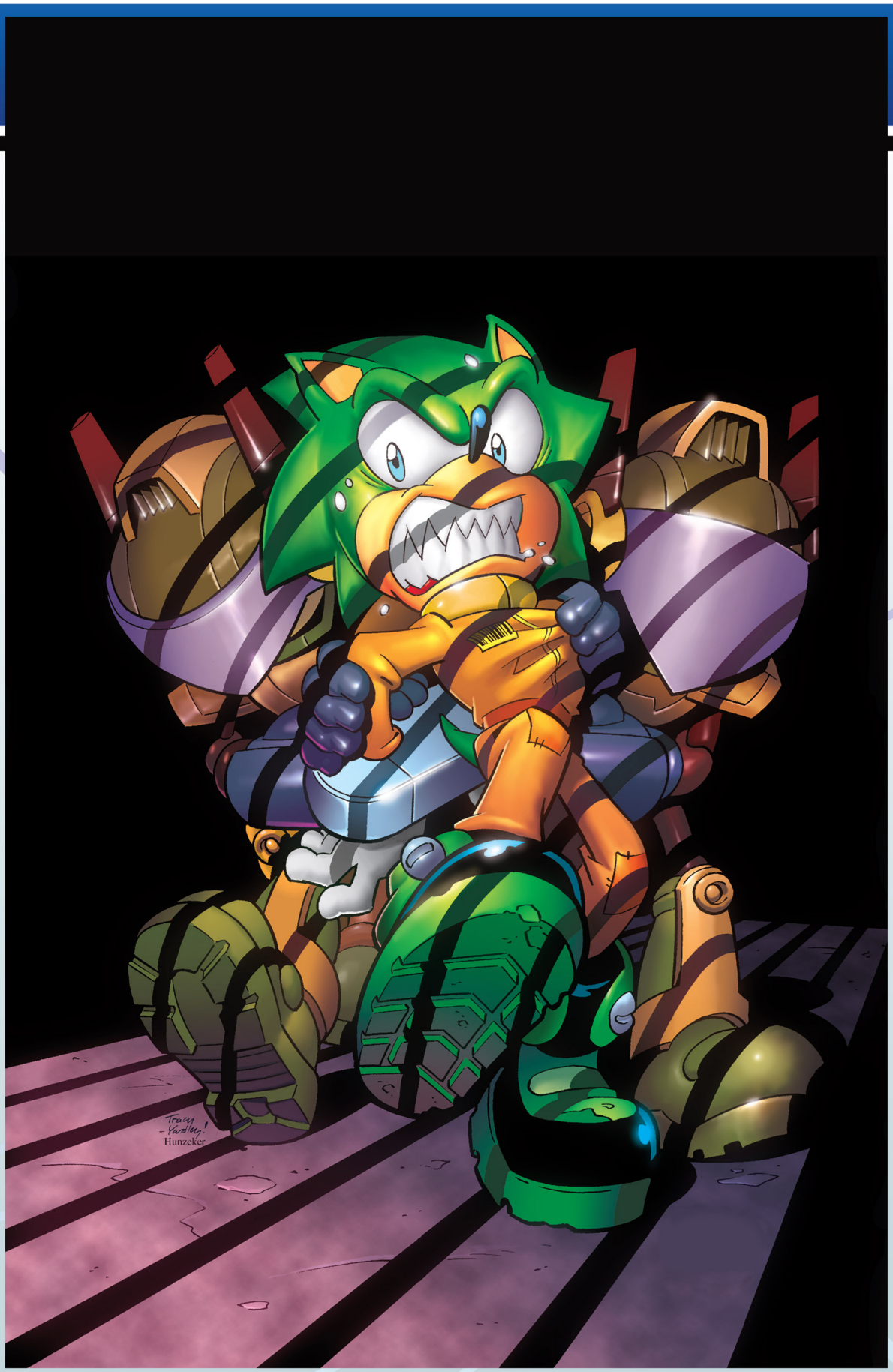
PREVIOUSLY

EVERYBODY KNOWS **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** – THE COOL, BLUE HERO OF HIS WORLD! BUT ON A **DARK MIRROR WORLD**, THE MEAN, GREEN **SCOURGE** MENACES EVERYONE! OR HE DID UNTIL HE WAS FINALLY BROUGHT TO **JUSTICE**, THAT IS.

NOW OL' SCOURGEY IS SERVING HIS TIME **BEHIND BARS**, THE BUTT OF EVERY JOKE ON THE PRISON YARD AND UNDER THE FIERCE SCRUTINY OF **WARDEN ZOBOTNIK**. BUT WITH THAT MANY **VILLAINS** UNDER ONE ROOF, AND MORE ARRIVING EACH DAY, IT MAY ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE **"LOCKDOWN"** TURNS INTO **"BREAK OUT"...**

DID YOU KNOW...

A mysterious creature named Mephiles from the 2006 video game *Sonic the Hedgehog* makes a cameo appearance in *Scourge: Lockdown!* Can you find him?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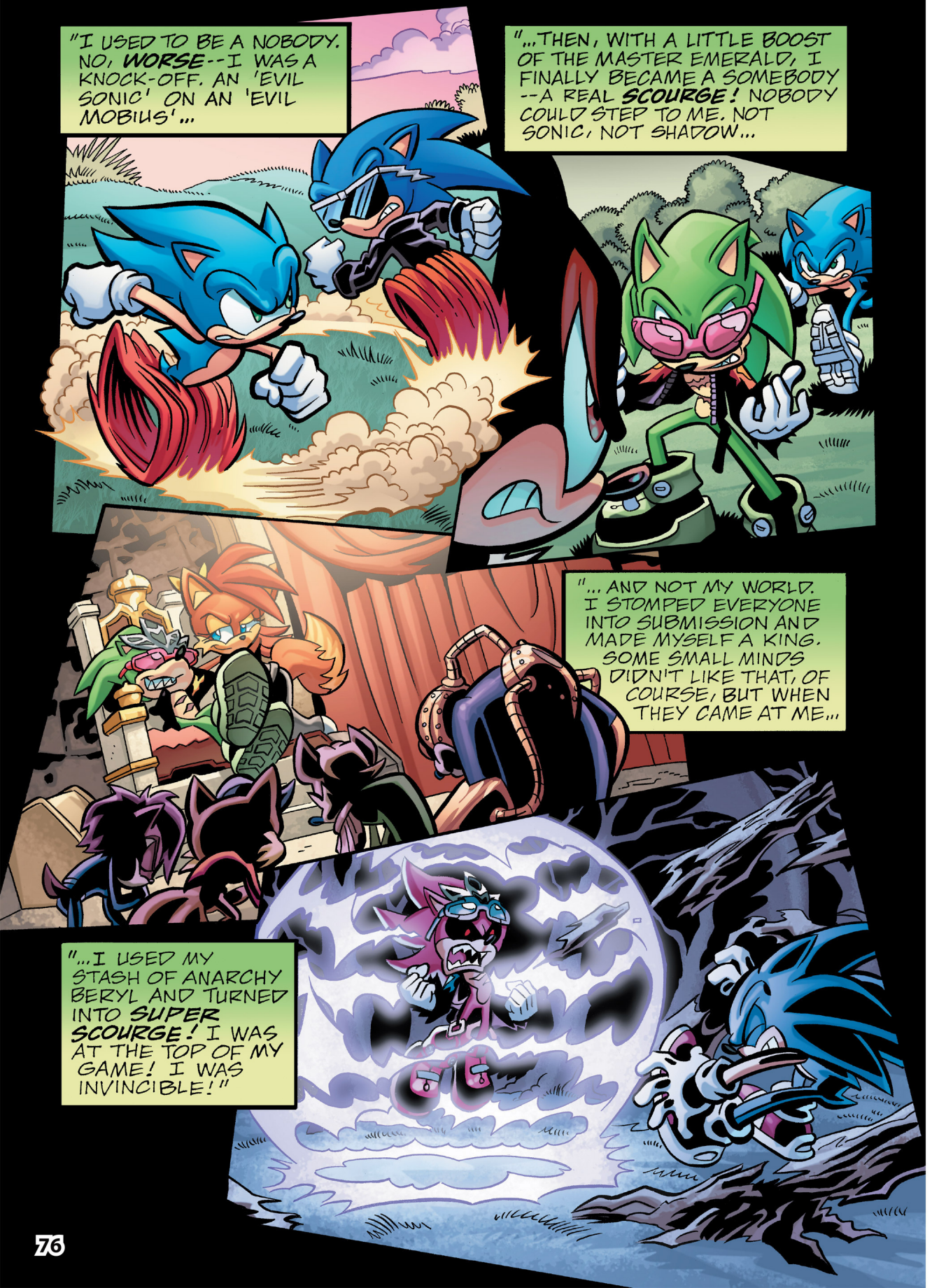
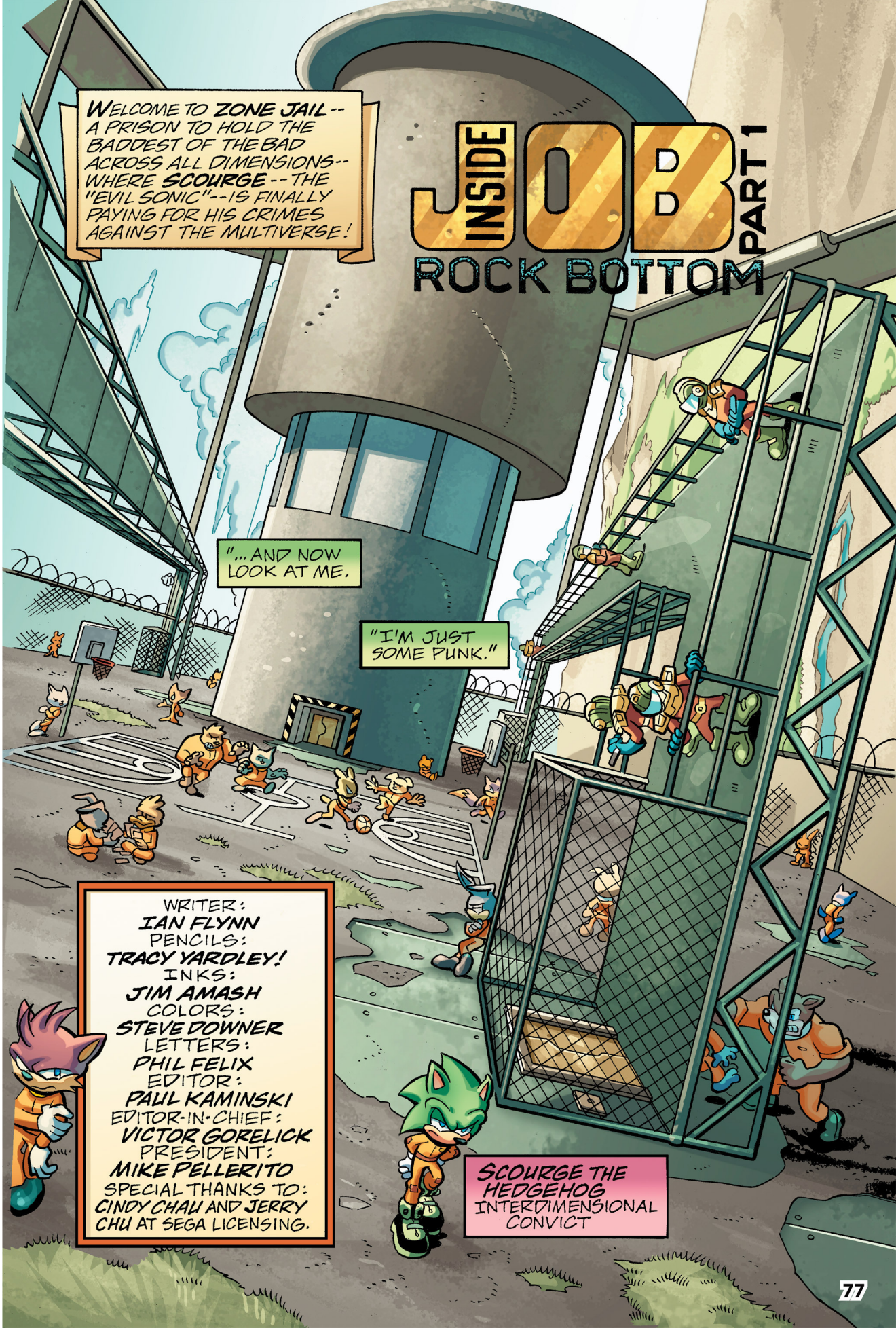

"I USED TO BE A NOBODY. NO, WORSE--I WAS A KNOCK-OFF. AN 'EVIL SONIC' ON AN 'EVIL MOBIUS'...
"...THEN, WITH A LITTLE BOOST OF THE MASTER EMERALD, I FINALLY BECAME A SOMEBODY --A REAL SCOURGE! NOBODY COULD STEP TO ME. NOT SONIC, NOT SHADOW...
"...AND NOT MY WORLD. I STOMPED EVERYONE INTO SUBMISSION AND MADE MYSELF A KING. SOME SMALL MINDS DIDN'T LIKE THAT, OF COURSE, BUT WHEN THEY CAME AT ME...
"...I USED MY STASH OF ANARCHY BERYL AND TURNED INTO SUPER SCOURGE! I WAS AT THE TOP OF MY GAME! I WAS INVINCIBLE!"


WELCOME TO ZONE JAIL--A PRISON TO HOLD THE BADDEST OF THE BAD ACROSS ALL DIMENSIONS--WHERE SCOURGE--THE "EVIL SONIC"--IS FINALLY PAYING FOR HIS CRIMES AGAINST THE MULTIVERSE!
INSIDE JOB
ROCK BOTTOM PART 1
"...AND NOW LOOK AT ME.
"I'M JUST SOME PUNK."
WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY!
INKS: JIM AMASH
COLORS: STEVE DOWNER
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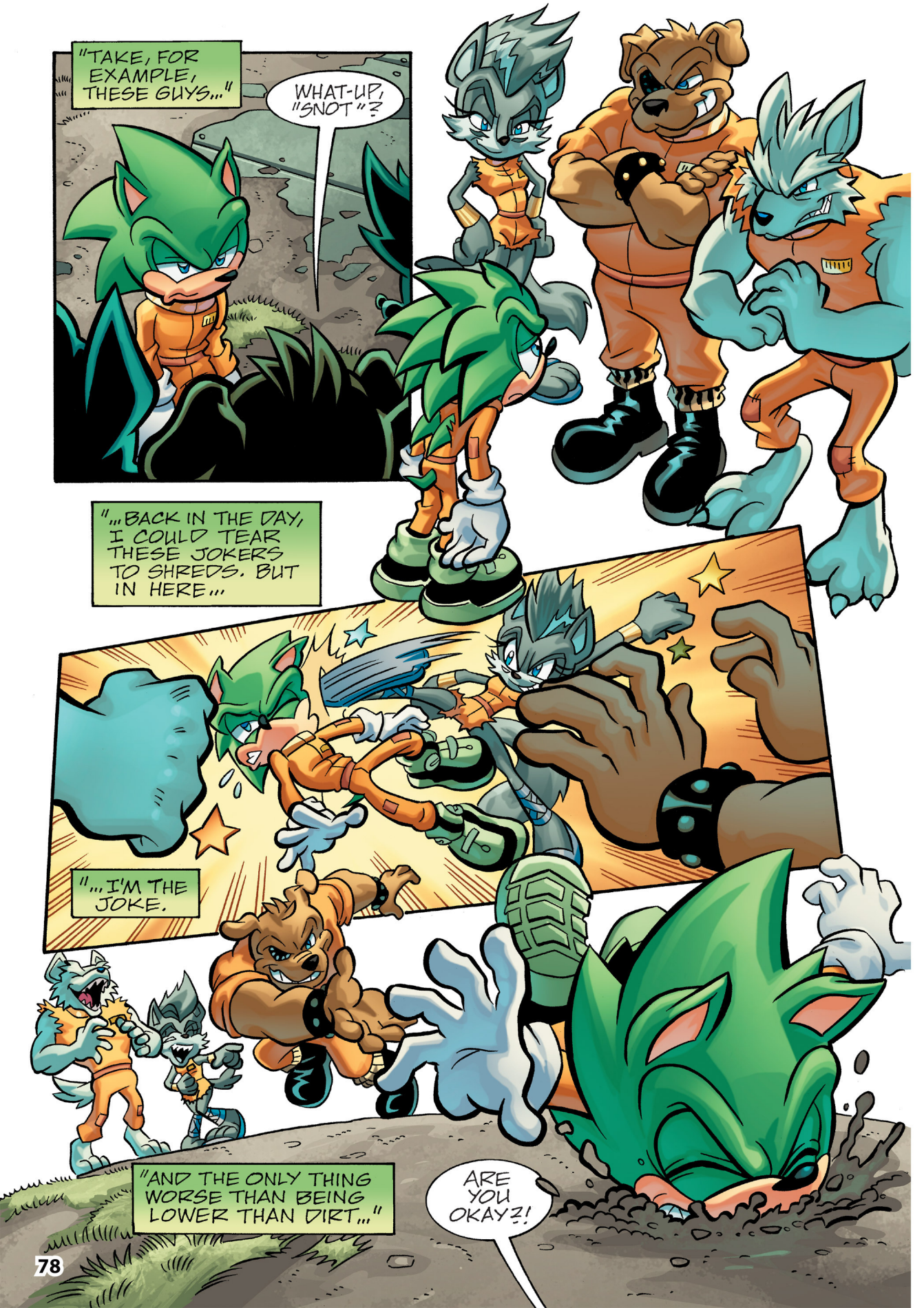
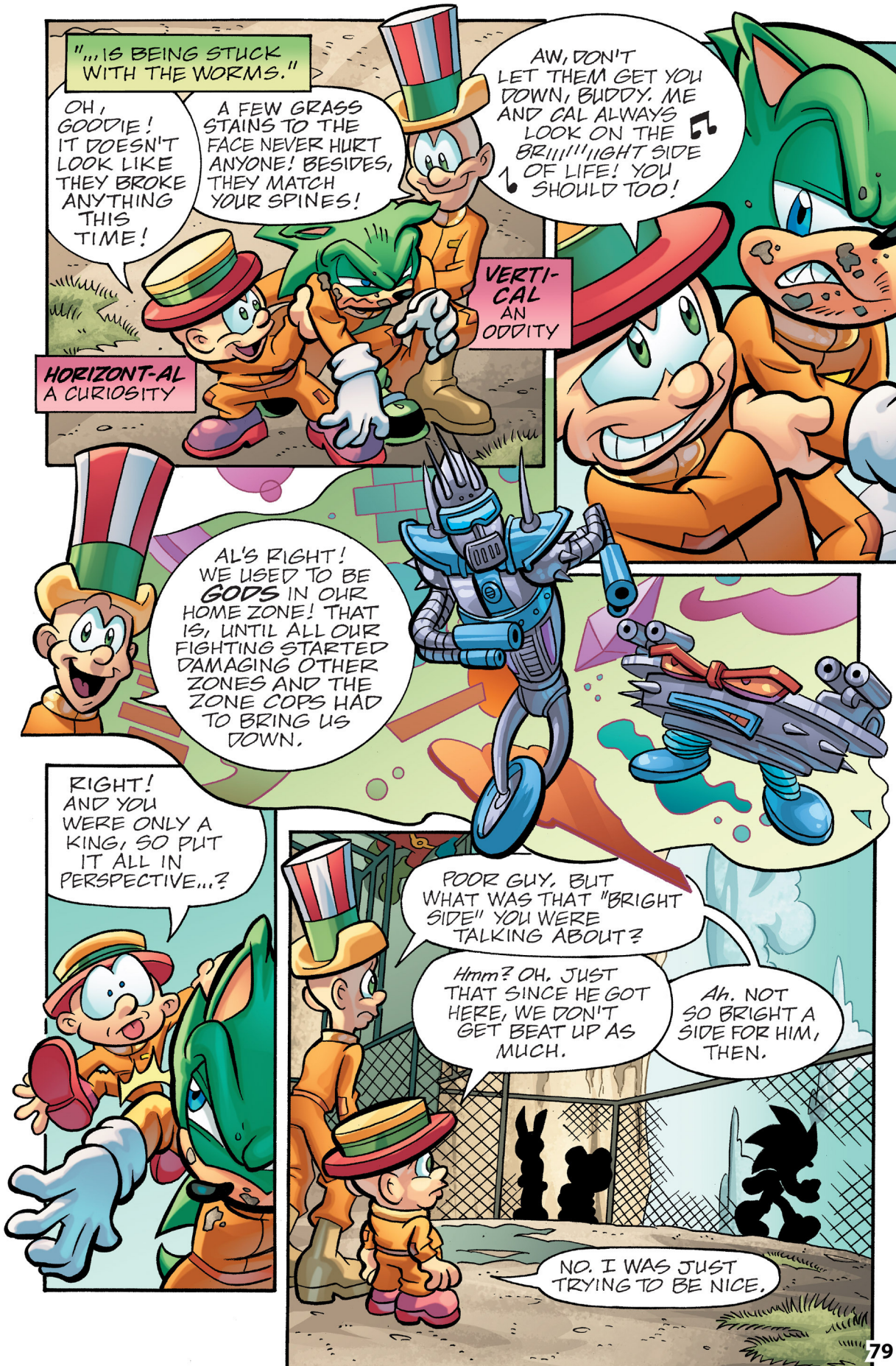
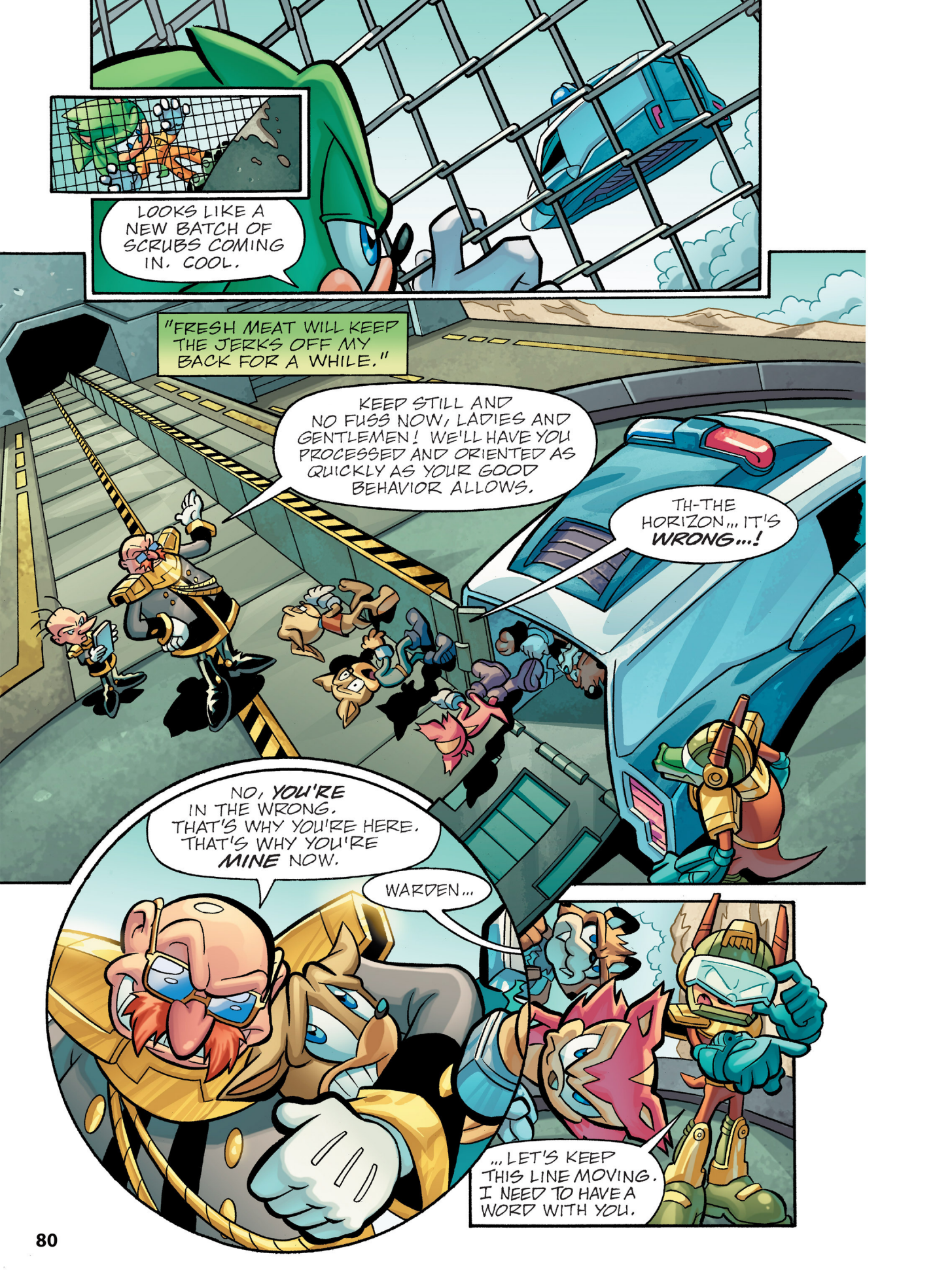
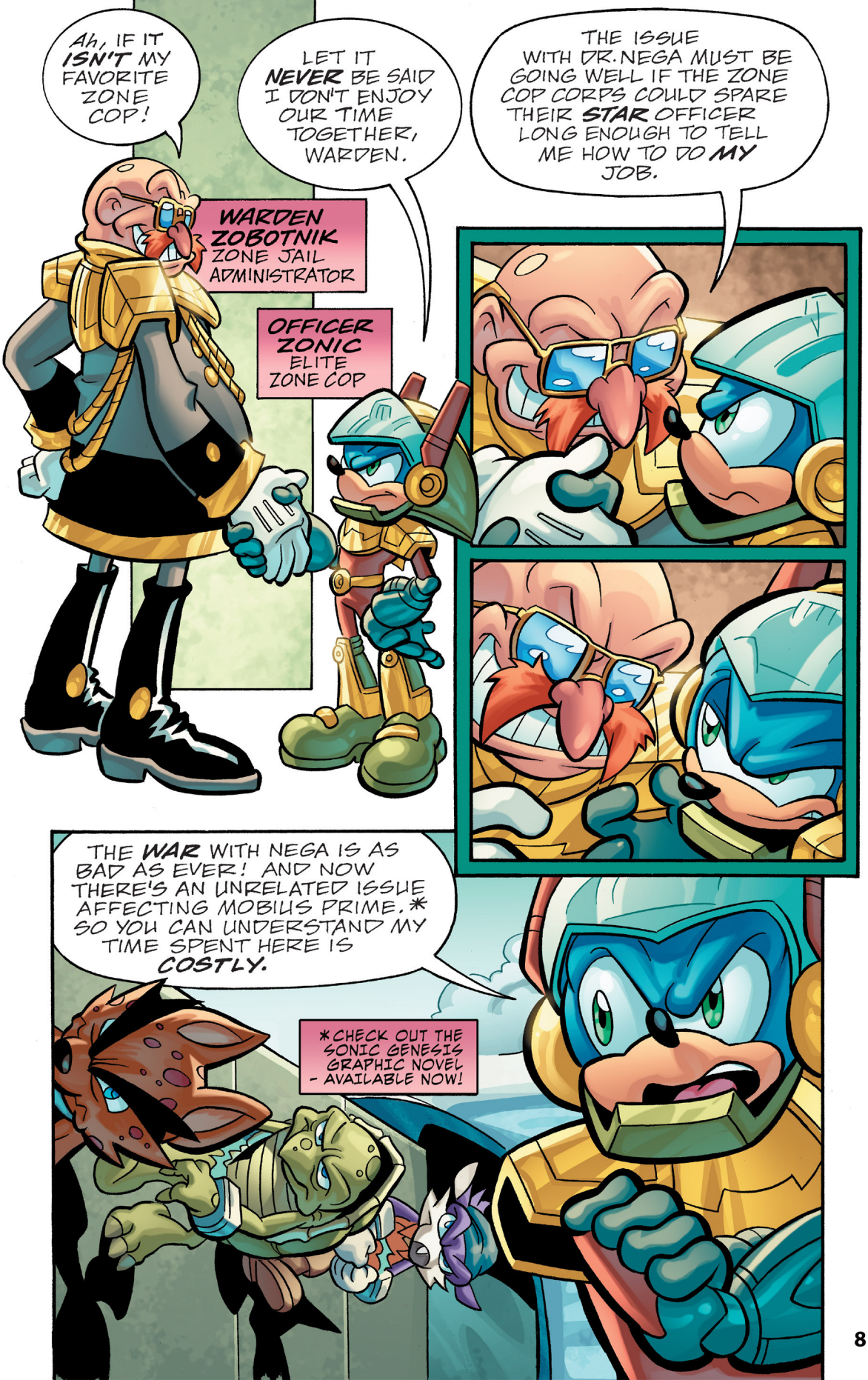
SCOURGE THE HEDGEHOG
INTERDIMENSIONAL CONVICT

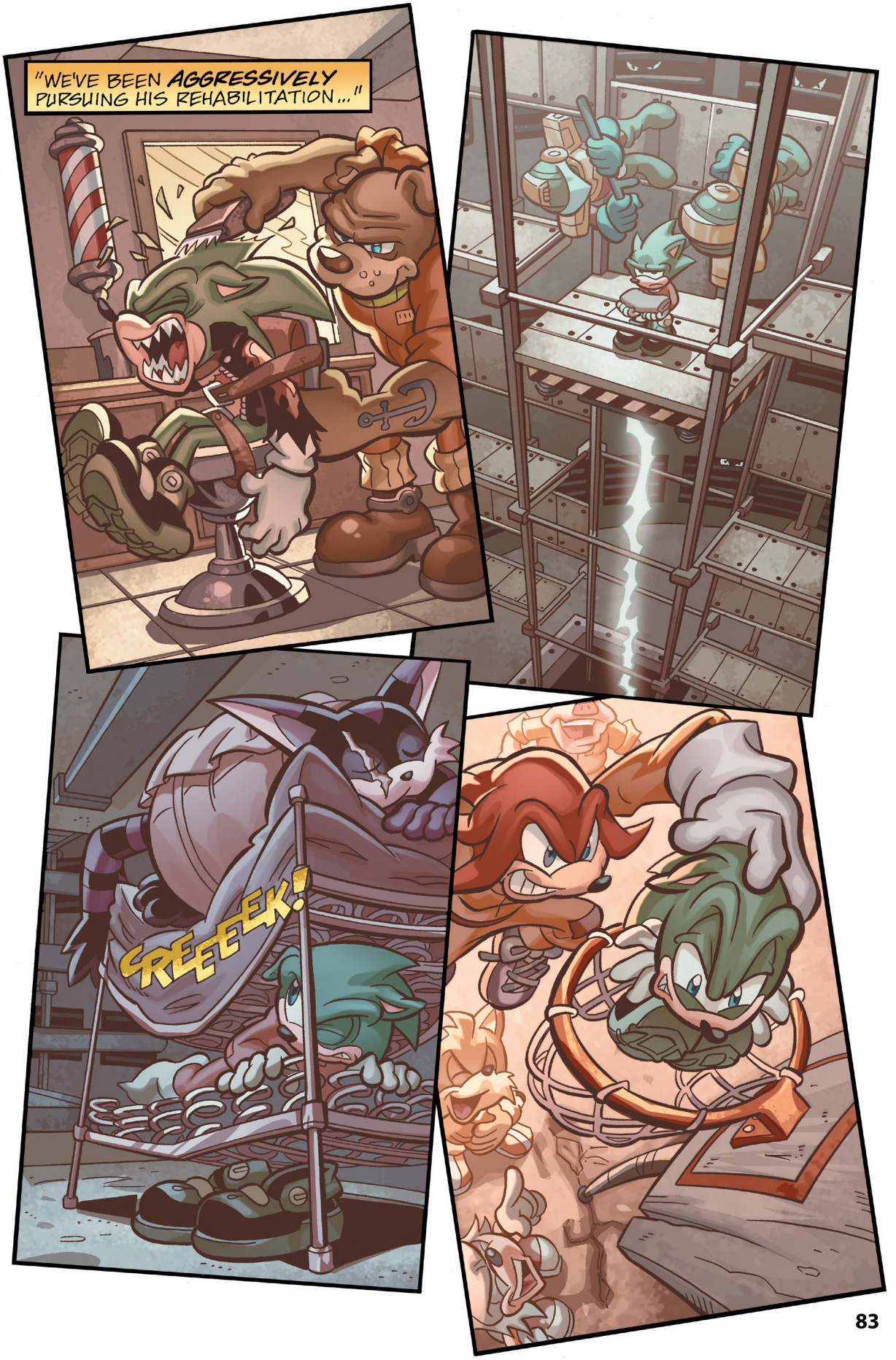

"TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THESE GUYS..."
WHAT-UP, "SNOT"?
"...BACK IN THE DAY, I COULD TEAR THESE JOKERS TO SHREDS. BUT IN HERE...
"...I'M THE JOKE.
"AND THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN BEING LOWER THAN DIRT..."
ARE YOU OKAY?!


"...IS BEING STUCK WITH THE WORMS."
OH, GOODIE! IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY BROKE ANYTHING THIS TIME!
A FEW GRASS STAINS TO THE FACE NEVER HURT ANYONE! BESIDES, THEY MATCH YOUR SPINES!
AW, DON'T LET THEM GET YOU DOWN, BUDDY. ME AND CAL ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRI!!!!!IGHT SIDE OF LIFE! YOU SHOULD TOO!
HORIZONT-AL A CURIOSITY
VERTI-CAL AN ODDITY
AL'S RIGHT! WE USED TO BE GODS IN OUR HOME ZONE! THAT IS, UNTIL ALL OUR FIGHTING STARTED DAMAGING OTHER ZONES AND THE ZONE COPS HAD TO BRING US DOWN.
RIGHT! AND YOU WERE ONLY A KING, SO PUT IT ALL IN PERSPECTIVE...?
POOR GUY. BUT WHAT WAS THAT "BRIGHT SIDE" YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
Hmm? OH, JUST THAT SINCE HE GOT HERE, WE DON'T GET BEAT UP AS MUCH.
Ah. NOT SO BRIGHT A SIDE FOR HIM, THEN.
NO. I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE NICE.


LOOKS LIKE A NEW BATCH OF SCRUBS COMING IN. COOL.
"FRESH MEAT WILL KEEP THE JERKS OFF MY BACK FOR A WHILE."
KEEP STILL AND NO FUSS NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! WE'LL HAVE YOU PROCESSED AND ORIENTED AS QUICKLY AS YOUR GOOD BEHAVIOR ALLOWS.
TH-THE HORIZON... IT'S WRONG...!
NO, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE MINE NOW.
WARDEN...
...LET'S KEEP THIS LINE MOVING. I NEED TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.


Ah, IF IT ISN'T MY FAVORITE ZONE COP!
LET IT NEVER BE SAID I DON'T ENJOY OUR TIME TOGETHER, WARDEN.
THE ISSUE WITH DR. NEGA MUST BE GOING WELL IF THE ZONE COP CORPS COULD SPARE THEIR STAR OFFICER LONG ENOUGH TO TELL ME HOW TO DO MY JOB.
WARDEN ZOBOTNIK
ZONE JAIL ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICER ZONIC
ELITE ZONE COP
THE WAR WITH NEGA IS AS BAD AS EVER! AND NOW THERE'S AN UNRELATED ISSUE AFFECTING MOBIUS PRIME.* SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY TIME SPENT HERE IS COSTLY.
*CHECK OUT THE SONIC GENESIS GRAPHIC NOVEL - AVAILABLE NOW!

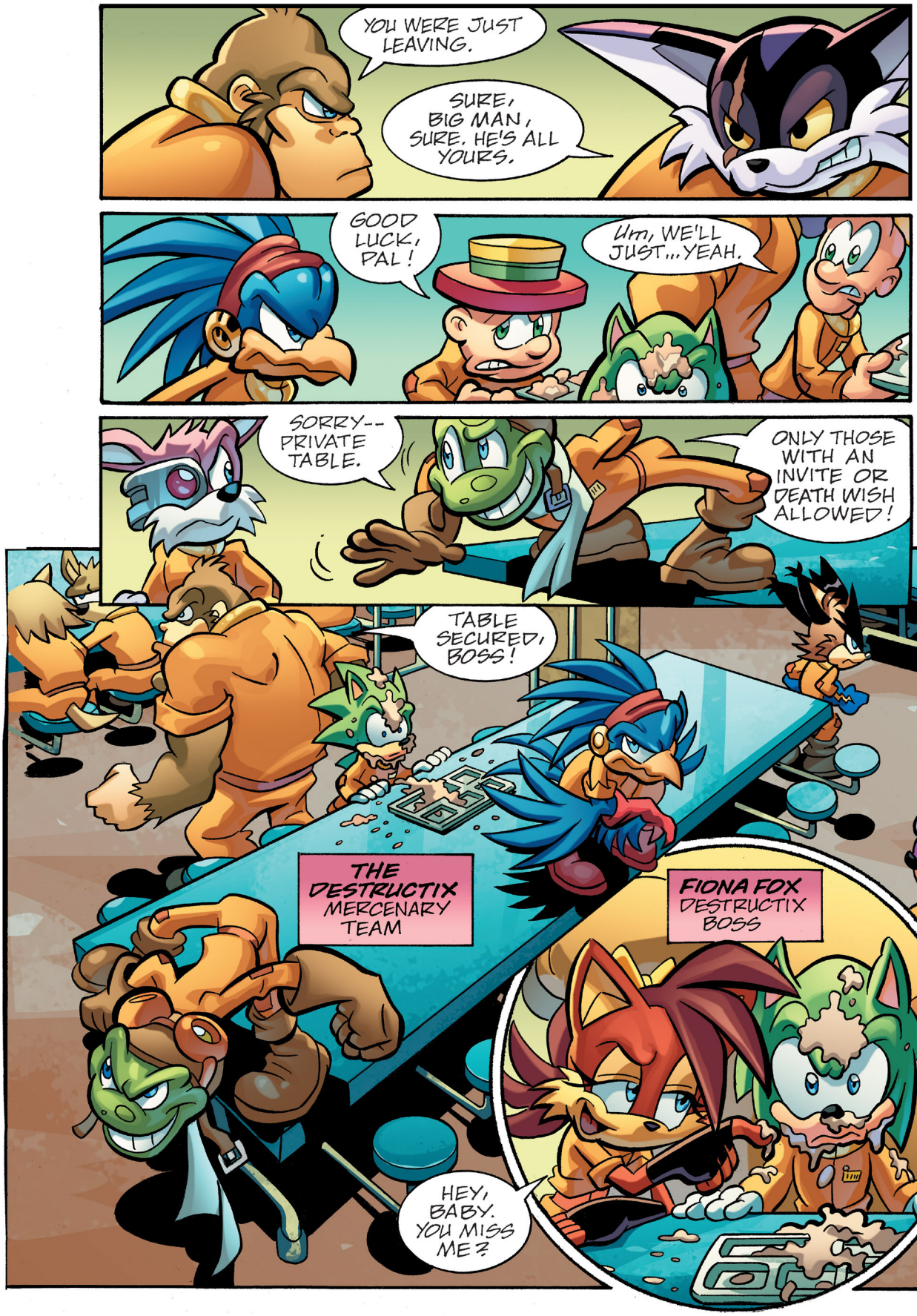
AND I'M NOT HERE TO TELL YOU HOW TO DO YOUR JOB. DESPITE SOME INMATES' COMPLAINTS, YOUR RECORD IS SPOTLESS.
NO ONE HAS EVER ESCAPED UNDER MY WATCH.
I'M HERE BECAUSE OF THESE FIVE. WE ARRESTED THEM FOR VIOLATING THE PAN-ZONAL LOCK-DOWN. THEY'RE FROM THE PRIME ZONE AND...
Ooh! THE PRIME ZONE! I THINK THAT'S A FIRST FOR US!
THEY ALL HAVE TIES TO SCOURGE, ESPECIALLY THE WOMAN. THEY TOOK OUT THREE SQUAD CARS, SENT FOUR OF MY MEN TO THE HOSPITAL, AND I DON'T THINK THEY WERE ESCAPING THE TROUBLE ON MOBIUS PRIME.
I'M WARNING YOU-- KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.
THE PRIME ZONERS WILL FALL IN LINE, AND AS FOR SCOURGE...

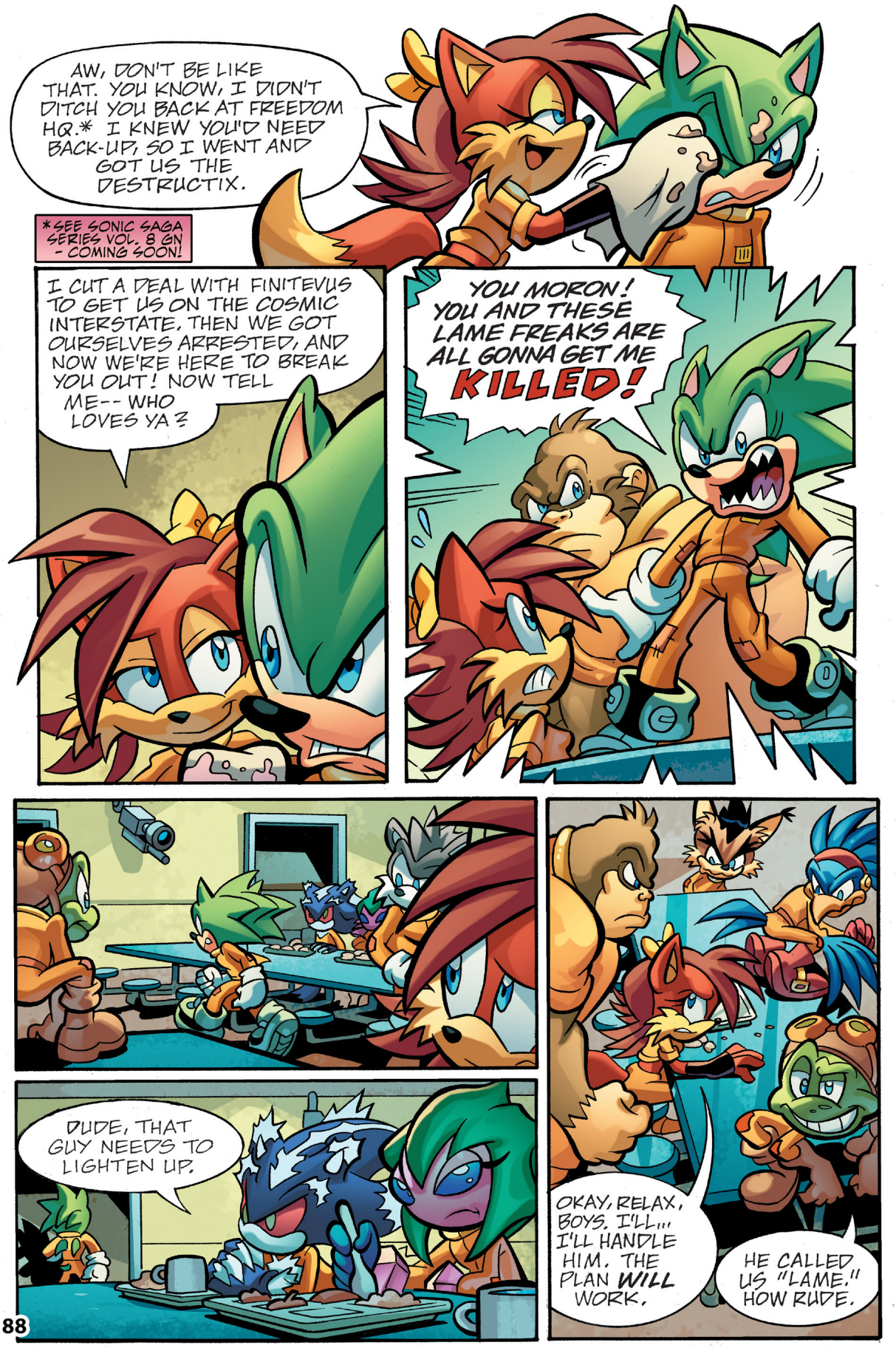

"WE'VE BEEN AGGRESSIVELY PURSUING HIS REHABILITATION..."
CREEEEK!

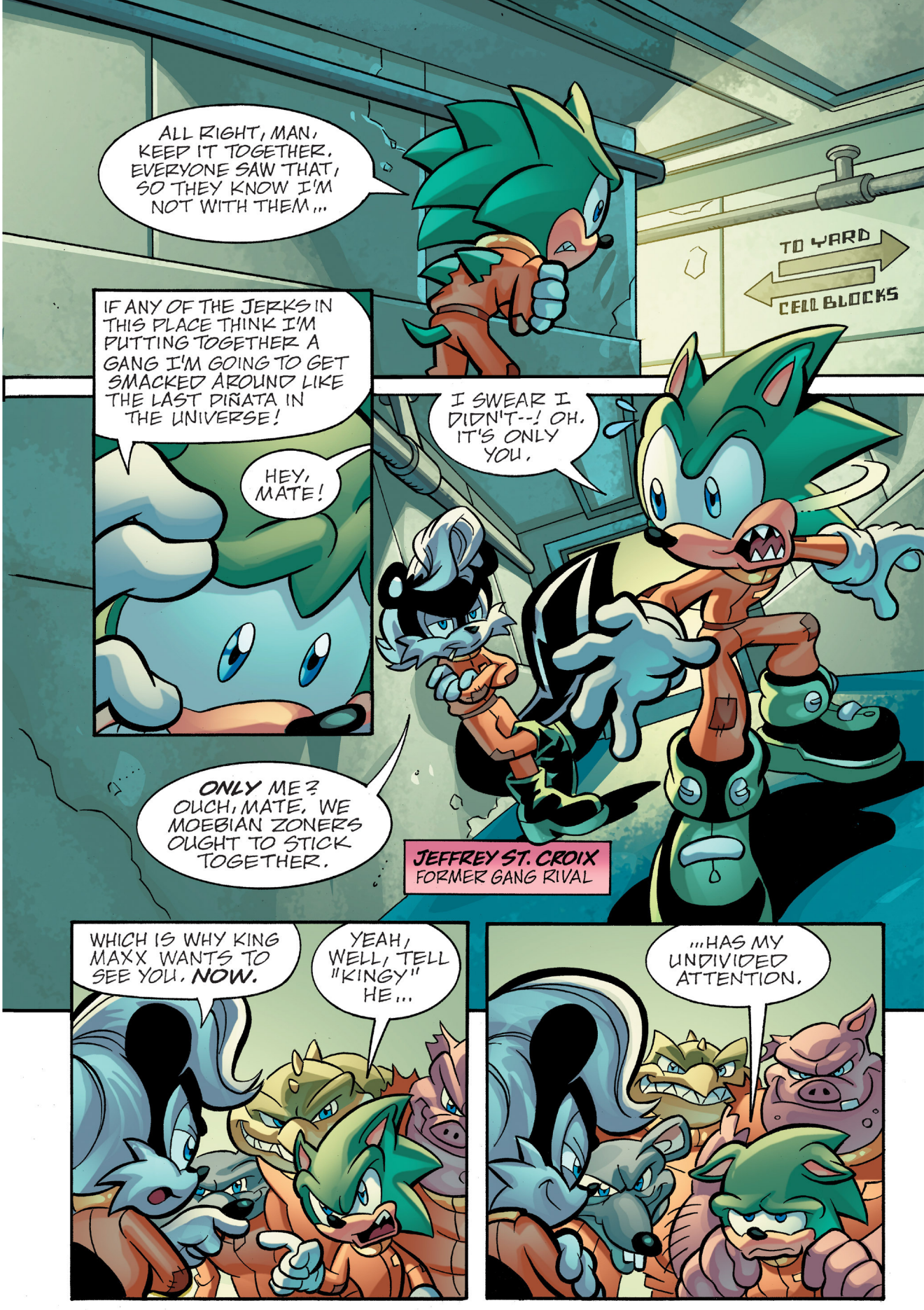
HOW TO NOT BE SEEN
HEH!
SNICKER!
LAUNDRY ROOM-B
!
"...VERY AGGRESSIVELY. I'M PLEASED WITH OUR PROGRESS."

GOOD MORNING, PAL!
IT'S BEEN RATHER PEACEFUL SINCE THE NEW INMATES ARRIVED, HASN'T IT?
YEAH. SURE, I GUESS. WENT A WHOLE DAY WITHOUT EATING TURF.
YOU LEARN TO APPRECIATE THE FLAVOR.
PERHAPS THE RUFFIANS WILL FIND NEW FAVORITES TO PICK ON? LIKE THAT MOTLEY CREW FROM THE PRIME ZONE?
WAIT... YOU MEAN SONIC'S ZONE?
YES! FROM MOBIUS. AND FIVE OF THEM AT ONCE!
WE'RE GUESSING THEY WERE HAVING A CLEARANCE SALE! DAHAHA!
OH, NO. IT BETTER NOT BE WHO I THINK IT...
HEY, "SNOT." HAVE A SEAT.

LEMME GO, SMALLS! I GOTTA SEE WHO THE PRIME ZONERS...
SPLAT!
AW, NOW YOU DONE IT! I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE WASTE FOOD!
GRRRRRR


YOU WERE JUST LEAVING.
SURE, BIG MAN, SURE. HE'S ALL YOURS.
GOOD LUCK, PAL!
Um, WE'LL JUST...YEAH.
SORRY-- PRIVATE TABLE.
ONLY THOSE WITH AN INVITE OR DEATH WISH ALLOWED!
TABLE SECURED, BOSS!
THE DESTRUCTIX MERCENARY TEAM
FIONA FOX DESTRUCTIX BOSS
HEY, BABY. YOU MISS ME?

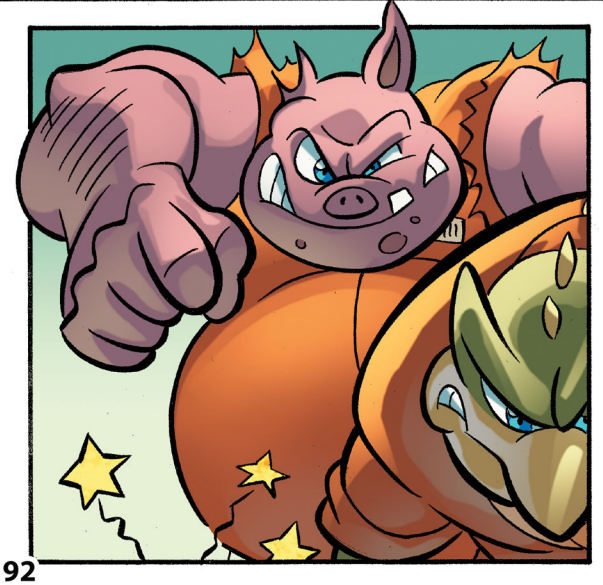

AW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT. YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T DITCH YOU BACK AT FREEDOM HQ.* I KNEW YOU'D NEED BACK-UP, SO I WENT AND GOT US THE DESTRUCTIX.
*SEE SONIC SAGA SERIES VOL. 8 GN - COMING SOON!
I CUT A DEAL WITH FINITEVUS TO GET US ON THE COSMIC INTERSTATE, THEN WE GOT OURSELVES ARRESTED, AND NOW WE'RE HERE TO BREAK YOU OUT! NOW TELL ME-- WHO LOVES YA?
YOU MORON! YOU AND THESE LAME FREAKS ARE ALL GONNA GET ME KILLED!
DUDE, THAT GUY NEEDS TO LIGHTEN UP.
OKAY, RELAX, BOYS. I'LL... I'LL HANDLE HIM. THE PLAN WILL WORK.
HE CALLED US "LAME." HOW RUDE.

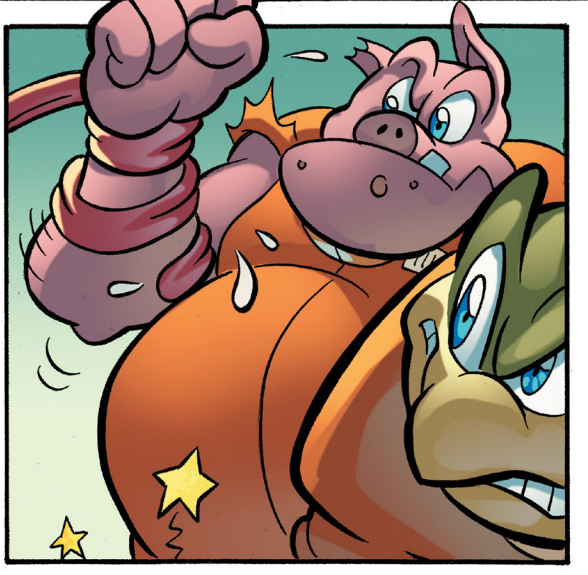

ALL RIGHT, MAN, KEEP IT TOGETHER. EVERYONE SAW THAT, SO THEY KNOW I'M NOT WITH THEM...
TO YARD
CELL BLOCKS
IF ANY OF THE JERKS IN THIS PLACE THINK I'M PUTTING TOGETHER A GANG I'M GOING TO GET SMACKED AROUND LIKE THE LAST PIÑATA IN THE UNIVERSE!
HEY, MATE!
I SWEAR I DIDN'T--! OH. IT'S ONLY YOU.
ONLY ME? OUCH, MATE. WE MOEBIAN ZONERS OUGHT TO STICK TOGETHER.
JEFFREY ST. CROIX
FORMER GANG RIVAL
WHICH IS WHY KING MAXX WANTS TO SEE YOU. NOW.
YEAH, WELL, TELL "KINGY" HE...
...HAS MY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.

SOON...
SCOURGE, MY BOY! SO GOOD OF YOU TO ANSWER MY SUMMONS SO PROMPTLY!
MAXX ACORN USURPED MOEBIAN KING
SURE, NO PROBLEM.
LISTEN. I WANT YOU TO KNOW I HARBOR NO ILL WILL. I RATHER ENJOYED CONQUERING THE ZONE OF SILENCE AFTER YOU EXILED ME THERE, *
I EVEN ENJOYED CARVING OUT MY LITTLE "TERRITORY" HERE ONCE THE ZONE COPS STOPPED MY NIGHTMARE ARMY'S INVASION OF THE MULTIVERSE...
* AS MENTIONED IN SONIC SELECT VOL.4!
I EVEN ENDORSE YOUR IDEA FOR RENAMING MOEBIUS! NO LONGER DOES MOBIUS PRIME CAST ITS SHADOW OVER US! I HAVE CONTINUED THAT LITTLE STROKE OF GENIUS TO EVERY MOEBIAN HERE, HAVEN'T I, "ST. CROIX"?
YES SIR. VERY WISE OF YOU, SIR.
AND YET...

I THOUGHT OUR AGREEMENT WAS THAT YOU WOULDN'T CHALLENGE MY POWER HERE, AND MY GANG WOULDN'T TEAR YOU LIMB FROM LIMB.
WAIT, WHOA, WHAT ARE YOU...?
PLEASE. FIVE FORMER ASSOCIATES OF YOURS, ONE OF THEM YOUR GIRLFRIEND, JUST HAPPEN TO BE ARRESTED AT THE SAME TIME?
IT WAS HER IDEA, NOT MINE! THEY'RE NOT WITH ME, YA CRAZY GEEZER!
HAHAHA! INSULTS WON'T SAVE YOU NOW!
LEAVE ENOUGH OF HIM TO BE IDENTIFIED. HE'LL SERVE AS A LESSON TO THE OTHERS!
WITH PLEASURE, SIR.

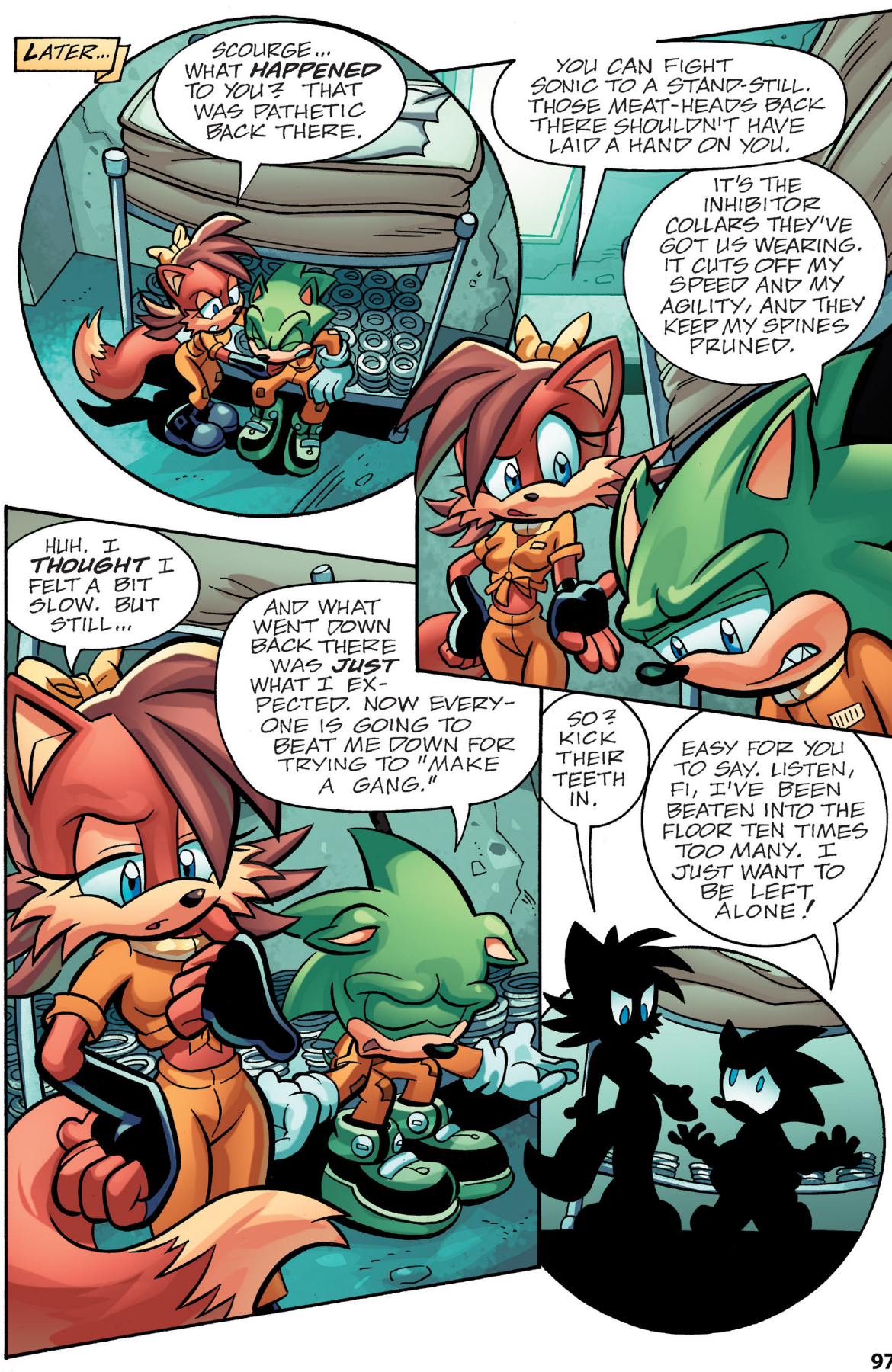
I'M NOT GOING DOWN LIKE A CHUMP! NOT HERE! NOT LIKE THIS!
NO!





HEH. DÉJÀ VU.
CRACK!
OOF!
UGH!

SCOURGE BELONGS TO US. DON'T TOUCH HIM.
YOU'VE JUST SIGNED YOUR DEATH WARRANTS.
OOOH, WHAT A SCARY OLD MAN!
C'MON, BABE. ON YOUR FEET.
TARGETS NEUTRALIZED, BOSS. ANY FURTHER ORDERS?
JUST MAKE SURE NOBODY GETS ROWDY WHILE I TALK TO MY BOY.
UNDERSTOOD. ENJOY YOUR LOST CAUSE.
WHO'S THE LAME ONE NOW, "SNOT"?


LATER...
SCOURGE... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? THAT WAS PATHETIC BACK THERE.
YOU CAN FIGHT SONIC TO A STAND-STILL. THOSE MEAT-HEADS BACK THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE LAID A HAND ON YOU.
IT'S THE INHIBITOR COLLARS THEY'VE GOT US WEARING. IT CUTS OFF MY SPEED AND MY AGILITY, AND THEY KEEP MY SPINES PRUNED.
HUH. I THOUGHT I FELT A BIT SLOW. BUT STILL...
AND WHAT WENT DOWN BACK THERE WAS JUST WHAT I EXPECTED. NOW EVERYONE IS GOING TO BEAT ME DOWN FOR TRYING TO "MAKE A GANG."
SO? KICK THEIR TEETH IN.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. LISTEN, FI, I'VE BEEN BEATEN INTO THE FLOOR TEN TIMES TOO MANY. I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE!

THEN YOU DO NEED A TEAM, LIKE SONIC.
HAHAHA! YEAH, JUST RUB SALT INTO THE WOUND, WHY DON'T YA?

I SHOULDN'T NEED A BUNCH OF FUZZY-BUDDIES TO CUDDLE UP TO. I CONQUERED A WHOLE STINKIN' PLANET ON MY OWN...
BABE, BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF HERE. YOU JUST... BEAT UP A BUNCH OF REGIONAL WARLORDS AND SAID THAT ***MADE*** YOU KING.

BESIDES, SONIC'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE HIS FRIENDS. THAT MAKES THEM LIABILITIES. YOU CAN HAVE YOUR OWN GANG OF ***CANNON FODDER*** AND ***STILL*** BE THE BADDEST DUDE AMONG THEM.

CONVINCING THEM TO HELP YOU ***NOW*** MIGHT BE A LITTLE HARD, THOUGH...
MY GANG... MY ***ARMY***... BUT I STILL KEEP THE BRAGGING RIGHTS...

YOU GOT A PLAN?
OF COURSE I'VE GOT A PLAN. ARE YOU READY TO GET SOME REVENGE?
I'LL MAKE THE DESTRUCTIX MY GANG! THEN WE'RE BUSTING OUT OF THIS PLACE, AND ANYONE IN OUR WAY IS IN FOR A WORLD OF PAIN!

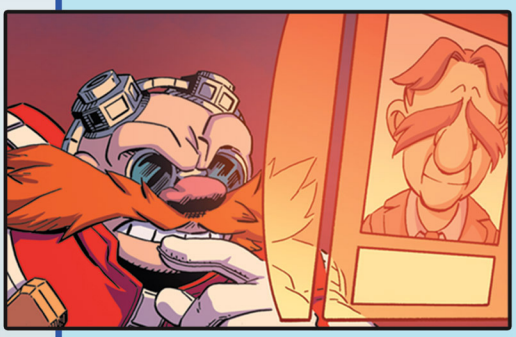
CONTINUE THE ADVENTURE IN SONIC UNIVERSE VOL. 8 "SCOURGE: LOCKDOWN"!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

THE CHASE

PREVIOUSLY

SONIC'S WORLD IS TORN APART WITH THE BROKEN PIECES FLOATING AROUND THE CORE OF SONIC'S WORLD. **DR. EGGMAN** RESEARCHED THE STRANGE PHENOMENA, WHICH LEAD HIM TO **PROF. PICKLE**, THE MAN WHO MAY HOLD THE KEY TO THE PLANET'S SURVIVAL.

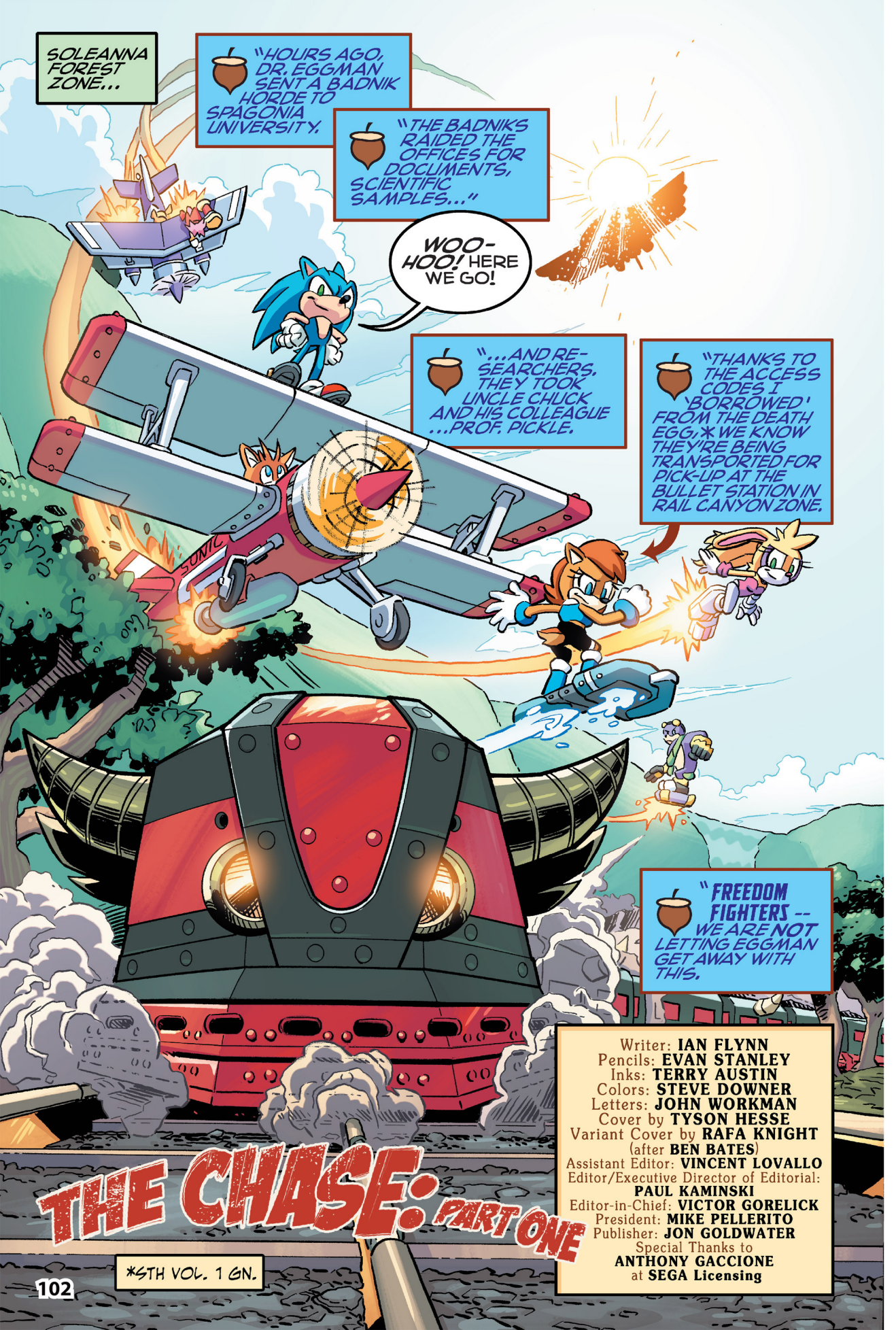


WANTING TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND IN HIS WORLD CONQUEST, DR. EGGMAN **KIDNAPPED** PROF. PICKLE AND ANYONE INVOLVED WITH HIS RESEARCH, INCLUDING THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS' ALLY: **CHUCK**! IT'S UP TO SONIC AND FRIENDS TO FREE THE PROFESSORS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THE CHASE IS ON...

DID YOU KNOW...

The train which the Freedom Fighters pursue in this story is actually based on the trains seen in the 2004 video game *Sonic Heroes!* Look out for them in the levels Rail Canyon and Bullet Station!


SOLEANNA FOREST ZONE...
"HOURS AGO, DR. EGGMAN SENT A BADNIK HORDE TO SPAGONIA UNIVERSITY.
"THE BADNIKS RAIDED THE OFFICES FOR DOCUMENTS, SCIENTIFIC SAMPLES..."
WOO-HOO! HERE WE GO!
"...AND RE-SEARCHERS. THEY TOOK UNCLE CHUCK AND HIS COLLEAGUE ...PROF. PICKLE.
"THANKS TO THE ACCESS CODES I 'BORROWED' FROM THE DEATH EGG,* WE KNOW THEY'RE BEING TRANSPORTED FOR PICK-UP AT THE BULLET STATION IN RAIL CANYON ZONE.
"FREEDOM FIGHTERS -- WE ARE NOT LETTING EGGMAN GET AWAY WITH THIS.
SONIC

THE CHASE: PART ONE

*STH VOL. 1 GN.

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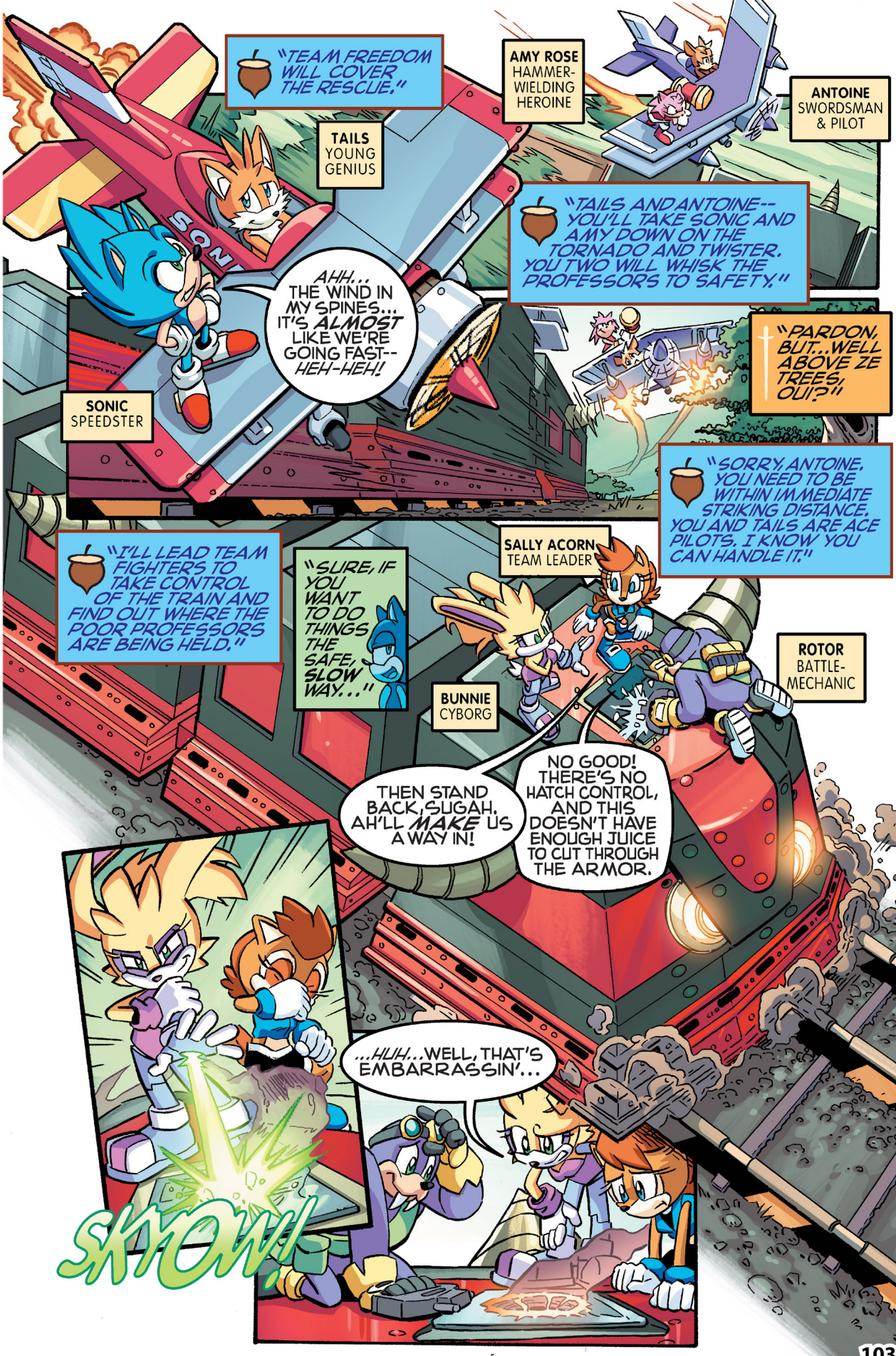
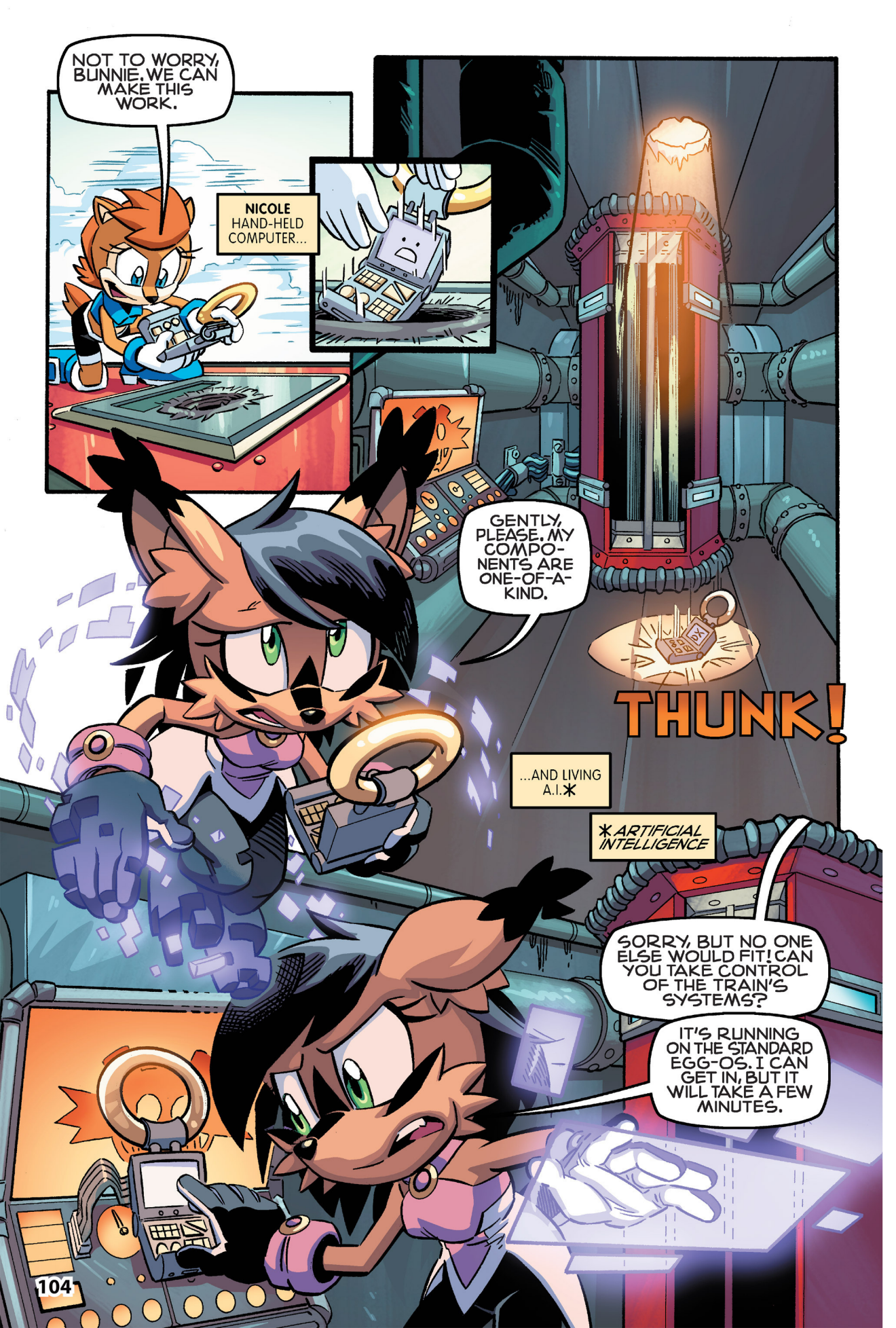
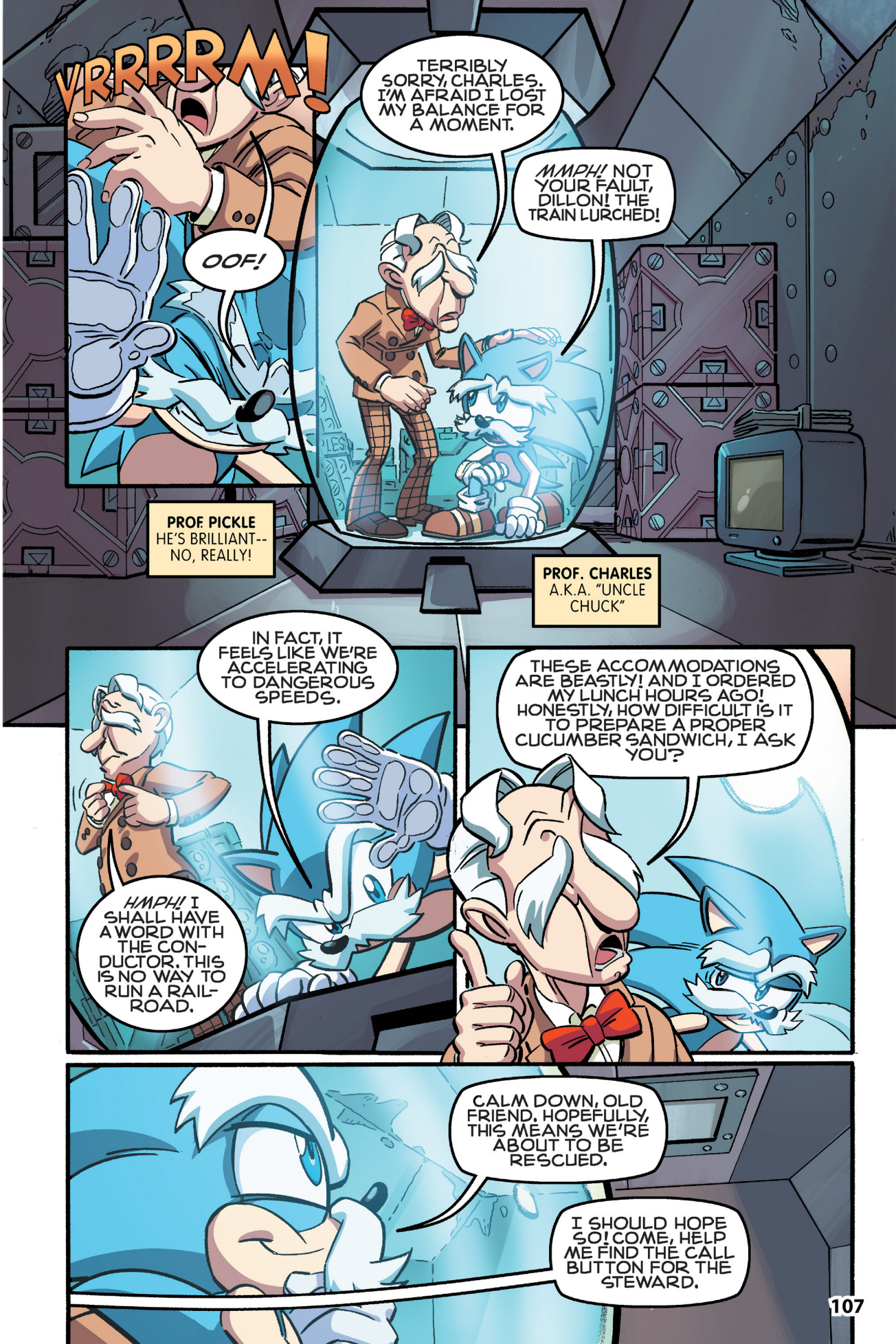

"TEAM FREEDOM WILL COVER THE RESCUE."
TAILS YOUNG GENIUS
AMY ROSE HAMMER-WIELDING HEROINE
ANTOINE SWORDSMAN & PILOT
"TAILS AND ANTOINE--YOU'LL TAKE SONIC AND AMY DOWN ON THE TORNADO AND TWISTER. YOU TWO WILL WHISK THE PROFESSORS TO SAFETY."
AHH... THE WIND IN MY SPINES... IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE GOING FAST-- HEH-HEH!
SONIC SPEEDSTER
"PARDON, BUT...WELL ABOVE ZE TREES, OUI?"
"SORRY, ANTOINE, YOU NEED TO BE WITHIN IMMEDIATE STRIKING DISTANCE. YOU AND TAILS ARE ACE PILOTS. I KNOW YOU CAN HANDLE IT."
"I'LL LEAD TEAM FIGHTERS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE TRAIN AND FIND OUT WHERE THE POOR PROFESSORS ARE BEING HELD."
"SURE, IF YOU WANT TO DO THINGS THE SAFE, SLOW WAY..."
SALLY ACORN TEAM LEADER
ROTOR BATTLE-MECHANIC
BUNNIE CYBORG
THEN STAND BACK, SUGAH. AH'LL MAKE US A WAY IN!
NO GOOD! THERE'S NO HATCH CONTROL, AND THIS DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH JUICE TO CUT THROUGH THE ARMOR.
...HUH...WELL, THAT'S EMBARRASSIN'...
SKYOW!


NOT TO WORRY, BUNNIE. WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK.
NICOLE HAND-HELD COMPUTER...
GENTLY, PLEASE. MY COMPO-NENTS ARE ONE-OF-A-KIND.
THUNK!
...AND LIVING A.I.*
*ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
SORRY, BUT NO ONE ELSE WOULD FIT! CAN YOU TAKE CONTROL OF THE TRAIN'S SYSTEMS?
IT'S RUNNING ON THE STANDARD EGG-OS. I CAN GET IN, BUT IT WILL TAKE A FEW MINUTES.

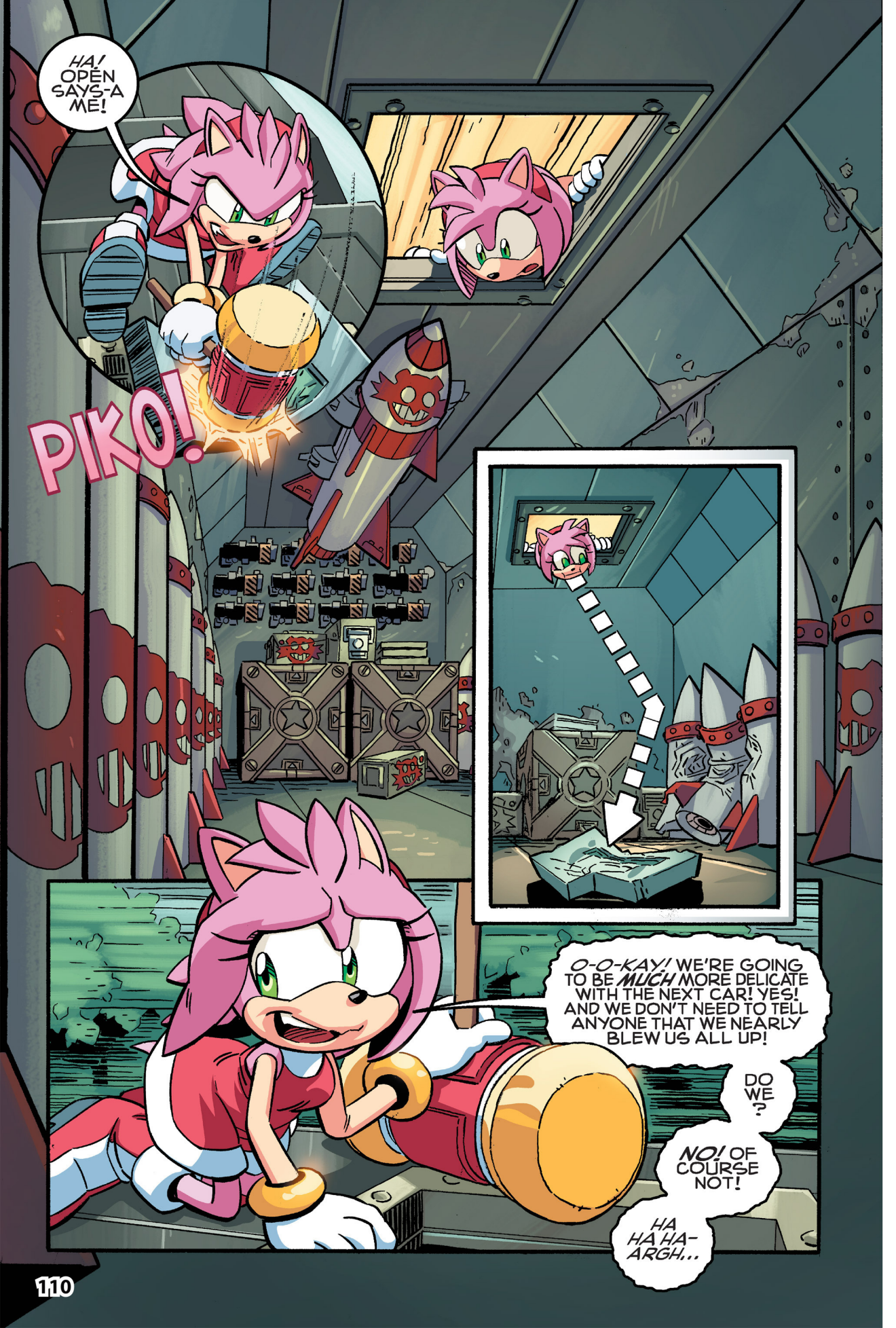
HURRY. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS THING HAS FOR DEFENSES.
I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA.
106
E-106 ETA HORDE COMMANDER
PSSSST
KA-THUNK!
I--I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE ROGUE BADNIKS ON OUR SIDE...?
SMASH!

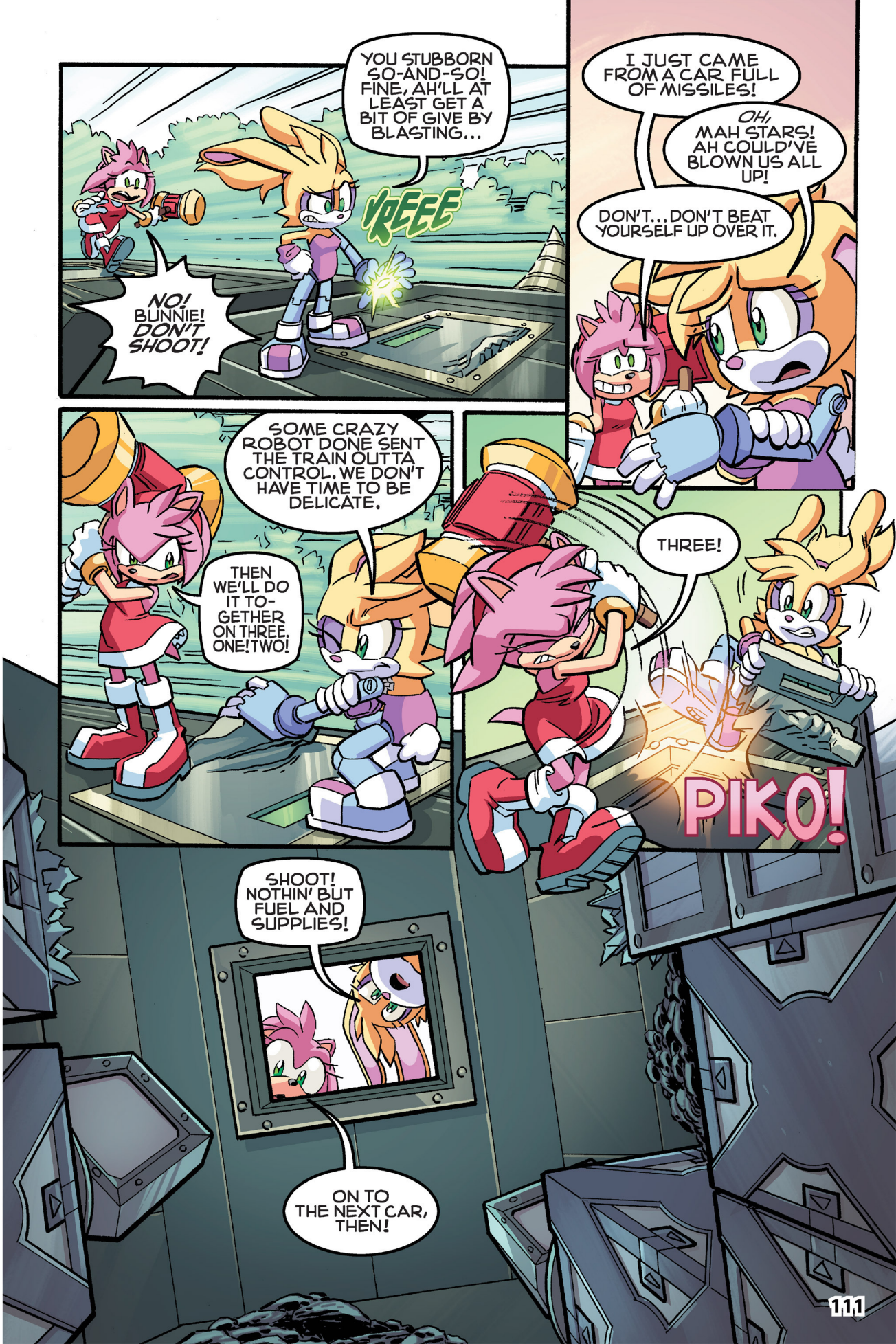
VRRRRM!
THE TRAIN'S ACCELERATING! FLY FASTER!
IT'S ALL I CAN BE DOING TO BE KEEPING US LEVEL!
AMY! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED! FORGET THE PLAN! WE'RE DOING THIS CAR-BY-CAR NOW!
YOU START FROM THIS END! I'LL RUN UP AHEAD!
YOU GOT IT!
RRRGH! OPEN! OPEN! OPEN!
PIKO! PIKO! PIKO!


VRRRRRM!
OOF!
TERRIBLY SORRY, CHARLES. I'M AFRAID I LOST MY BALANCE FOR A MOMENT.
MMPH! NOT YOUR FAULT, DILLON! THE TRAIN LURCHED!
PROF. PICKLE
HE'S BRILLIANT-- NO, REALLY!
PROF. CHARLES
A.K.A. "UNCLE CHUCK"
IN FACT, IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE ACCELERATING TO DANGEROUS SPEEDS.
HMPH! I SHALL HAVE A WORD WITH THE CONDUCTOR. THIS IS NO WAY TO RUN A RAILROAD.
THESE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE BEASTLY! AND I ORDERED MY LUNCH HOURS AGO! HONESTLY, HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO PREPARE A PROPER CUCUMBER SANDWICH, I ASK YOU?
CALM DOWN, OLD FRIEND. HOPEFULLY, THIS MEANS WE'RE ABOUT TO BE RESCUED.
I SHOULD HOPE SO! COME, HELP ME FIND THE CALL BUTTON FOR THE STEWARD.

KA-THUNK!
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!
E-100 UNIT!
I'M UNDER ATTACK!
GET ME OUT OF HERE!
PSSST
PSSST
TAKE ME!
KA-THUNK!
THANK YOU, SALLY.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE--BUT I'M AFRAID THE TRAIN'S CONTROLS ARE DESTROYED. HOWEVER --I CAN CONFIRM THE PROFESSORS ARE ABOARD THE TRAIN. ALSO, WHILE THE DOORS BETWEEN CARS ARE SEALED, I SAW THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CEILING HATCHES ARE LESS ARMORED.
SO THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THE TRAIN OR QUICKLY SEARCH THE CARS.
NO. AND FURTHER-MORE...

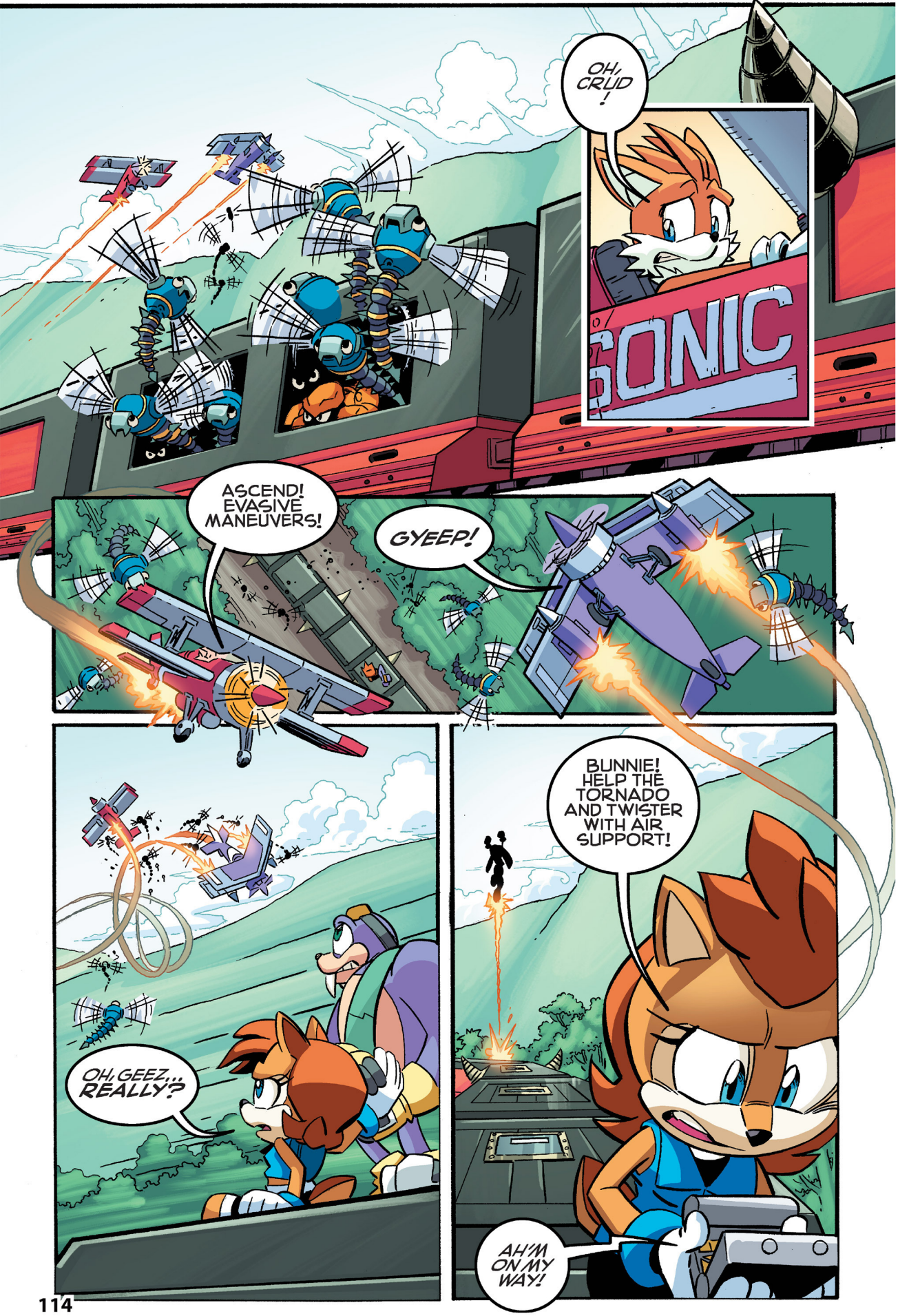
...THE E-100 UNIT DOES NOT SEEM TO CARE ABOUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE.
SO MUCH FOR FINESSE. WE'RE GOING CAR-BY-CAR NOW, TEAM FIGHTERS!
HUSTLE! WE NEED TO FIND THE PROFESSORS AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE BADNIK GETS US, OR...
KA-THUNK!
"... BEFORE THIS CRAZY TRAIN JUMPS THE RAILS!"


HA! OPEN SAYS-A ME!
PIKO!
O-O-KAY! WE'RE GOING TO BE MUCH MORE DELICATE WITH THE NEXT CAR! YES! AND WE DON'T NEED TO TELL ANYONE THAT WE NEARLY BLEW US ALL UP!
DO WE?
NO! OF COURSE NOT!
HA HA HA- ARGH...


YOU STUBBORN SO-AND-SO! FINE, AH'LL AT LEAST GET A BIT OF GIVE BY BLASTING...
VREEE
NO! BUNNIE! DON'T SHOOT!
I JUST CAME FROM A CAR FULL OF MISSILES!
OH, MAH STARS! AH COULD'VE BLOWN US ALL UP!
DON'T... DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER IT.
SOME CRAZY ROBOT DONE SENT THE TRAIN OUTTA CONTROL. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE DELICATE.
THEN WE'LL DO IT TO-GETHER ON THREE. ONE! TWO!
THREE!
PIKO!
SHOOT! NOTHIN' BUT FUEL AND SUPPLIES!
ON TO THE NEXT CAR, THEN!

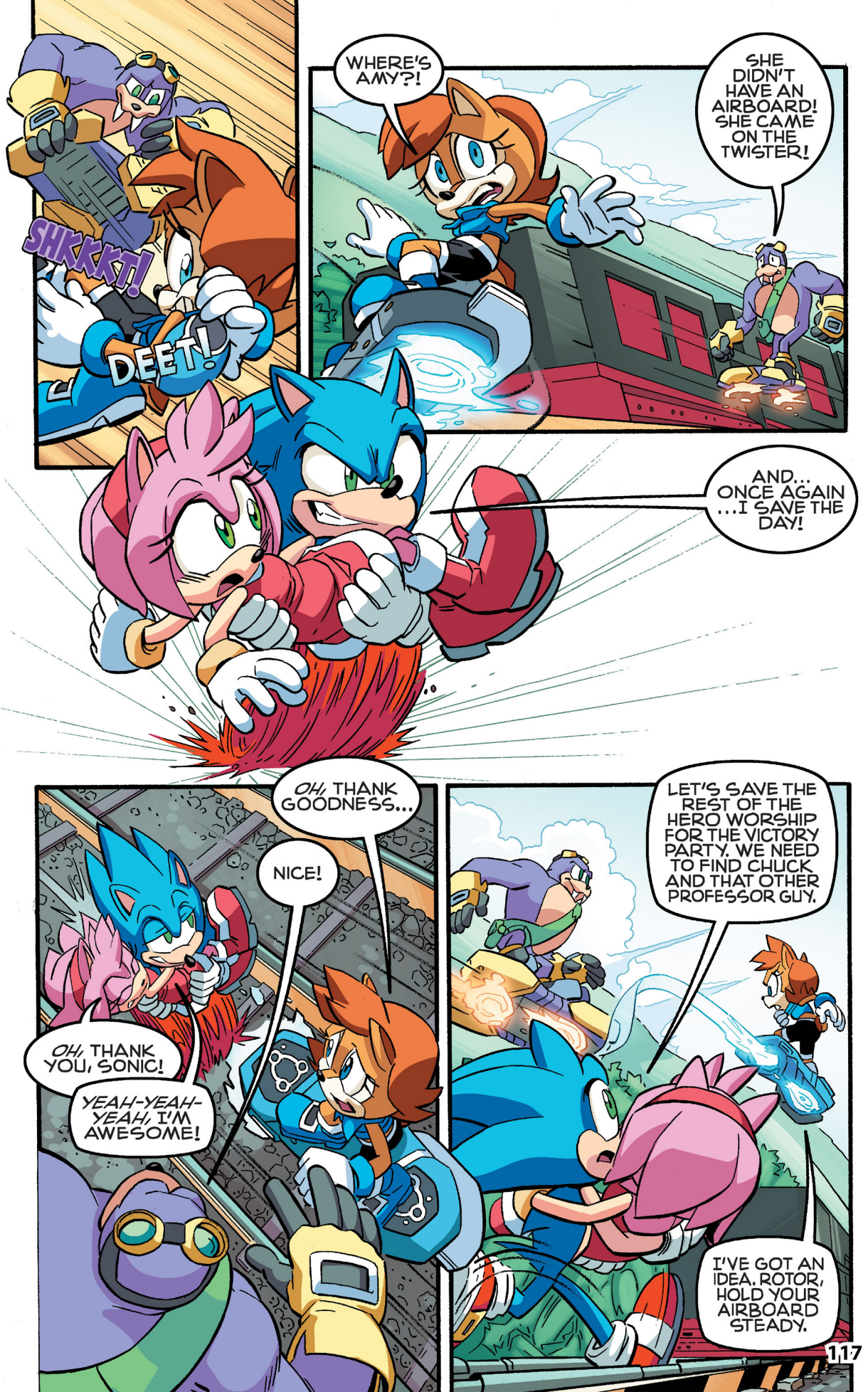
I WOULD'VE CUT THROUGH EVENTUALLY, YOU KNOW.
I WASN'T MAKING ANY HEADWAY ON MINE, AND WE'RE TAKING TOO LONG! JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE, AND...
CLANG!
CAREFUL. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE HATCH DOESN'T FLY--
--OFF?!
NICE CATCH!
YEAH, LET'S NOT BRAIN SOMEONE FURTHER DOWN OR TAKE OUT ONE OF THE PLANES WITH A FLYING CHUNK OF METAL.
BRR ...NO GOOD.
FOOD SUPPLIES-- EGGMAN ONLY!
JUNK FOOD
JUNKIER FOOD
EPIC SANDWICH INGREDIENTS

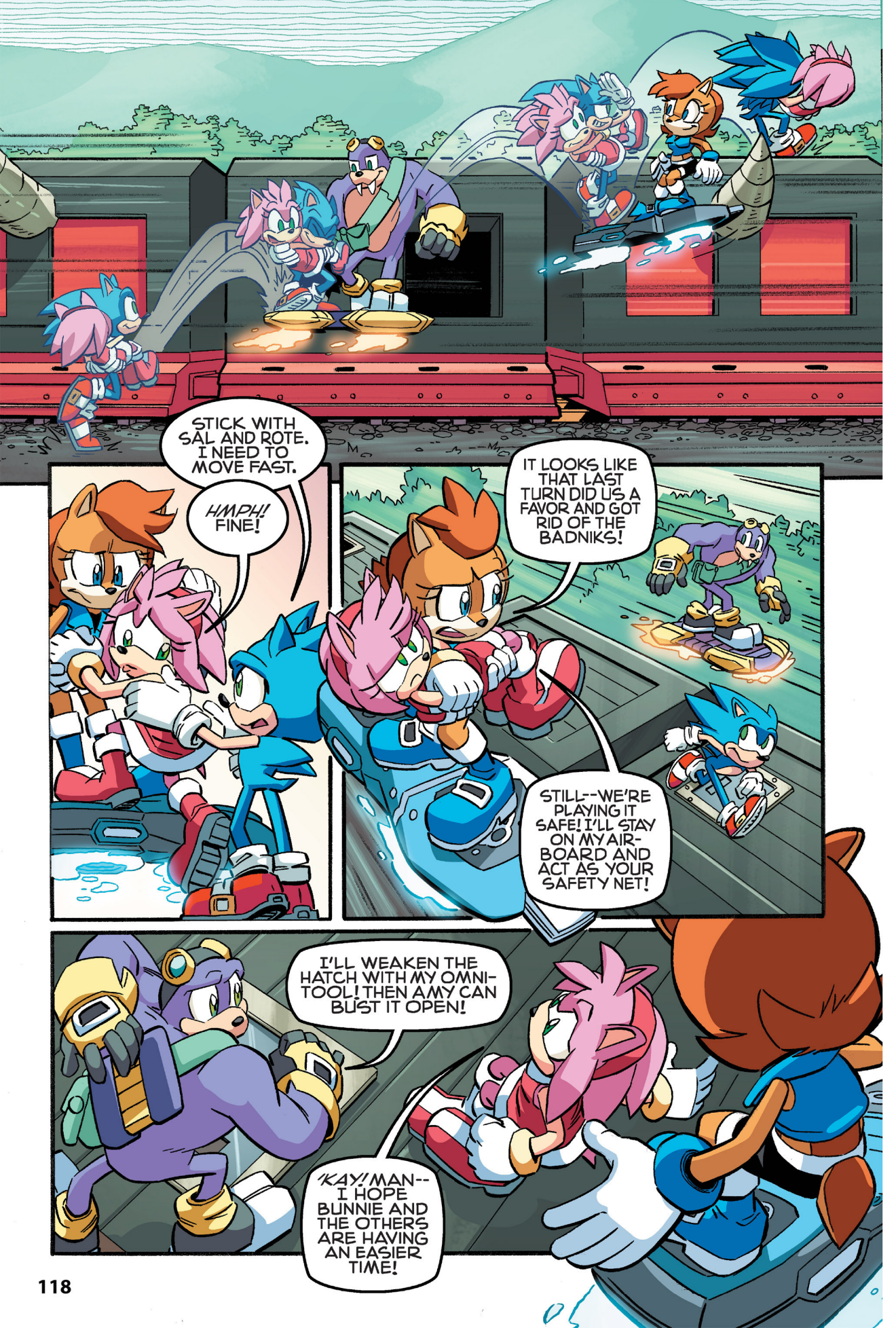
SMASHIN' INTO RANDOM CARS! SMASHIN' INTO RANDOM CARS!
--IN THE WRONG CAR.
I'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS ONE! HOLD ON, CHUCK! I'M--
MY BAD! YOU GUYS CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP ...OR STAND BY... OR WHATEVER IT IS BADNIKS DO. I KNOW THE WAY OUT, SO I'LL JUST--

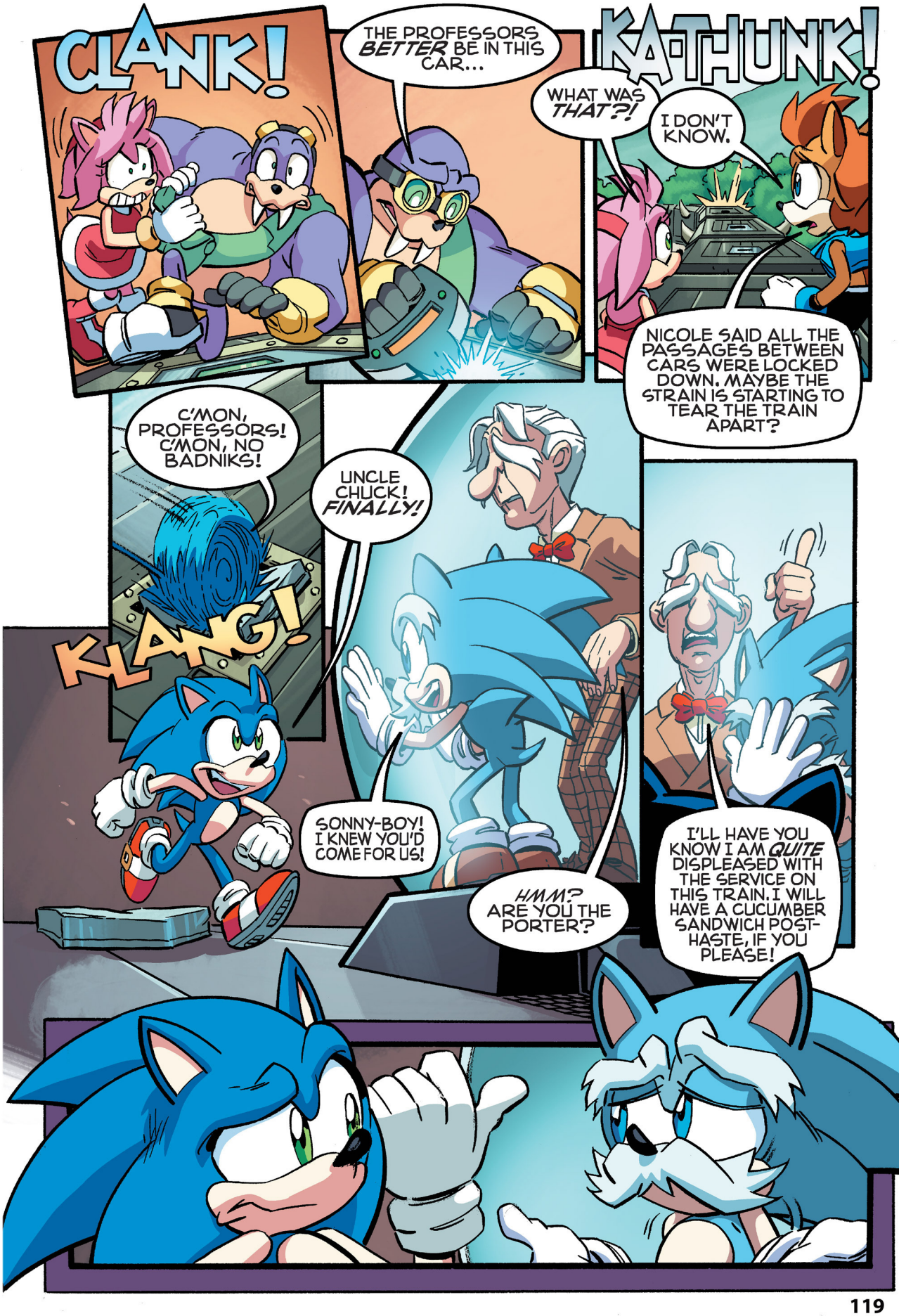

OH, CRUD!
SONIC
ASCEND! EVASIVE MANEUVERS!
GYEEP!
OH, GEEZ... REALLY?
BUNNIE! HELP THE TORNADO AND TWISTER WITH AIR SUPPORT!
AH'M ON MY WAY!

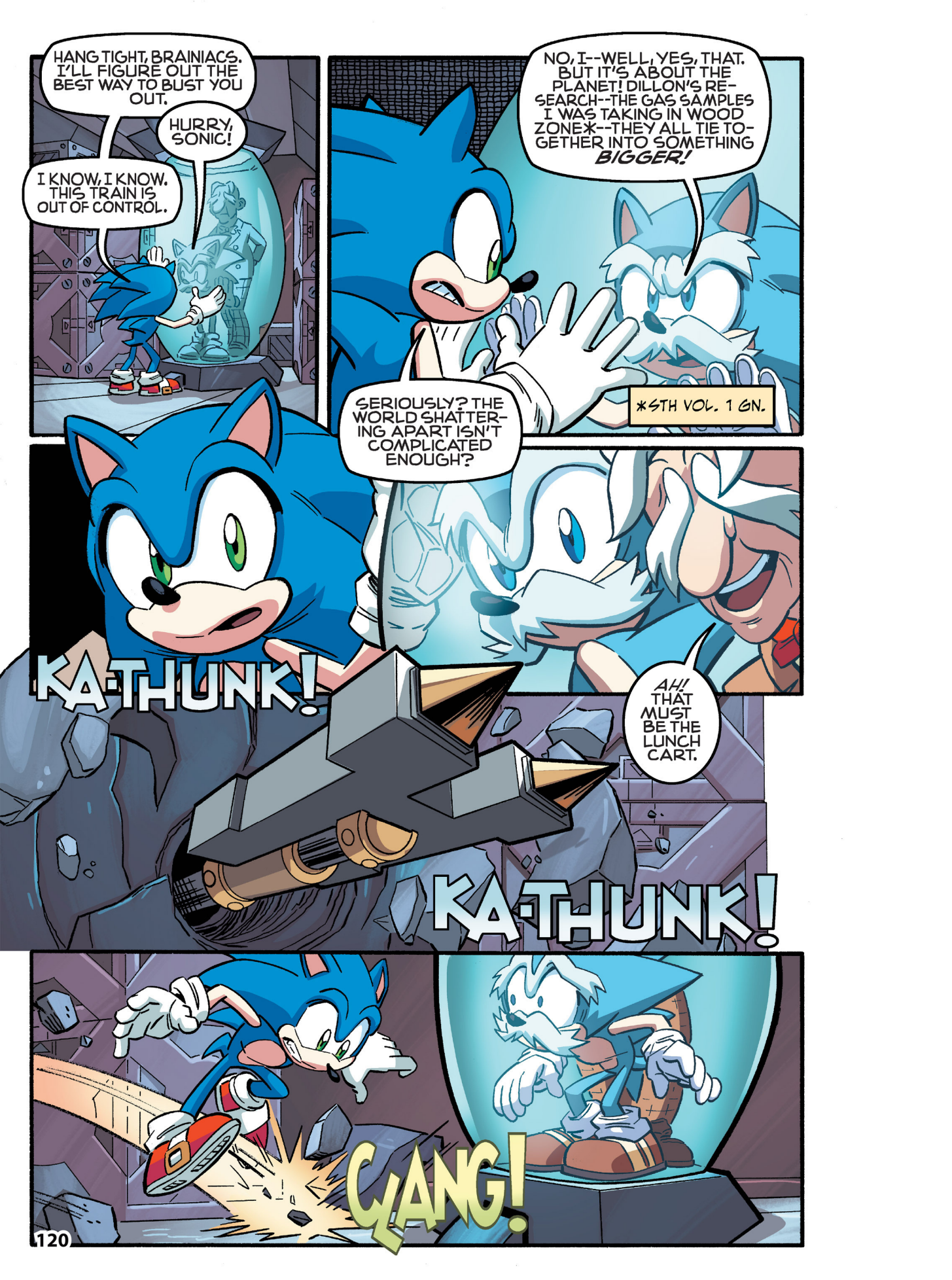
AMY! MOVE UP AND HELP US WITH THE BADNIKS!
WHAT?!
REMIND ME AGAIN WHY I DIDN'T HAVE OMOCHAO AND T-PUP COORDINATING COMMS?
BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T FLY FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP UP WITH THE TRAIN.
RIGHT. REMIND ME TO GET YOU AND TAILS TO BUILD US SOME HEAD SETS BEFORE THE NEXT MISSION.
CAN WE WORRY ABOUT THIS MISSION *FIRST* ?!
PIKO!
PIKO!
PIKO!
NOW! =HUFF= WHAT DID YOU =HUFF= WANT?

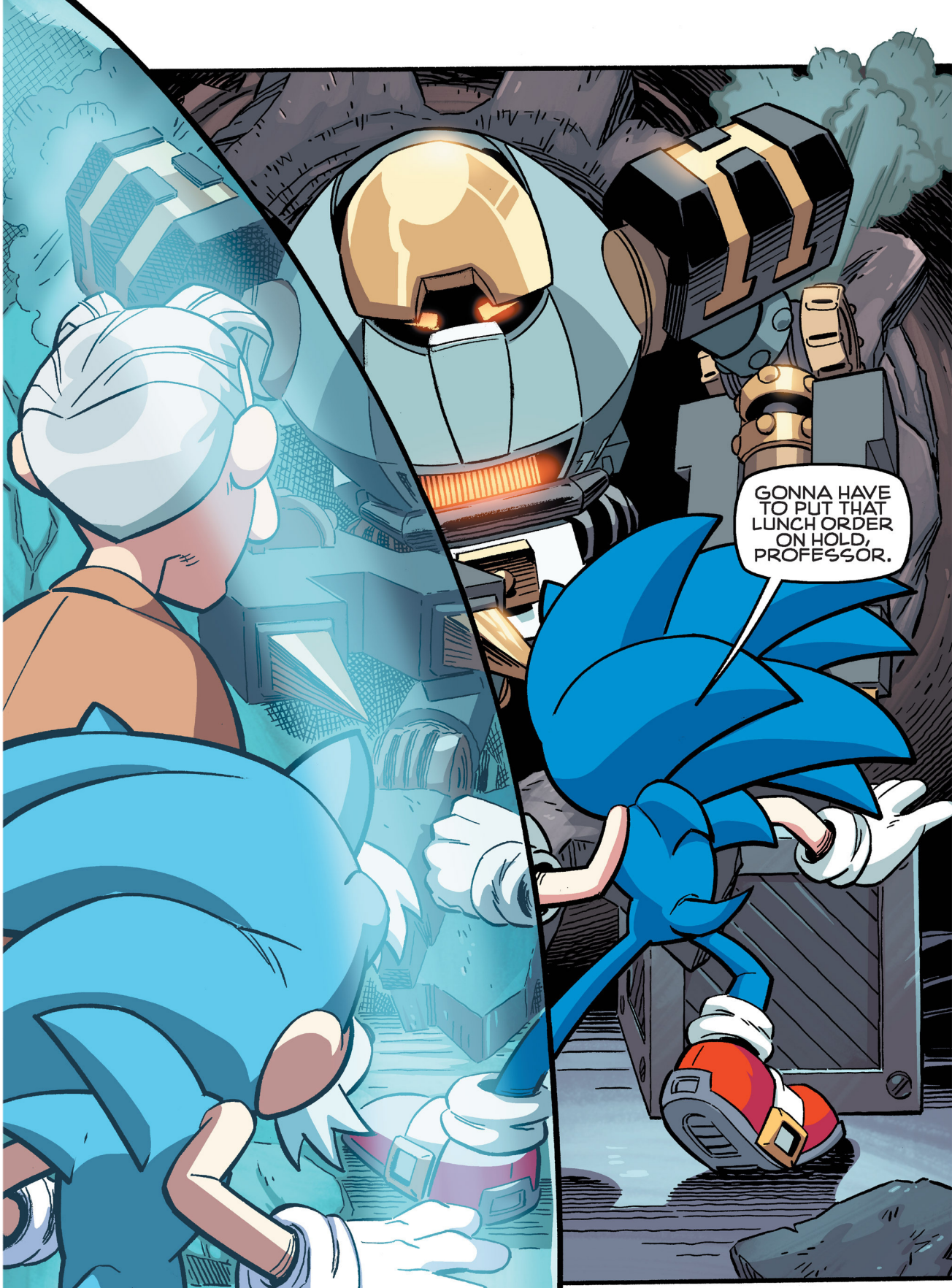
BOOM!
VREEE
BOOM!
BOOM! BOOM!
HEH-HEH-WHEW! YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LET ME WALK AWAY. WELL, NOT "WALK." I DON'T WALK. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I--
SCREEEEECH!
SCREEEECH!


SHKKK!
DEET!
WHERE'S AMY?!
SHE DIDN'T HAVE AN AIRBOARD! SHE CAME ON THE TWISTER!
AND... ONCE AGAIN ...I SAVE THE DAY!
OH, THANK GOODNESS...
NICE!
OH, THANK YOU, SONIC!
YEAH-YEAH-YEAH, I'M AWESOME!
LET'S SAVE THE REST OF THE HERO WORSHIP FOR THE VICTORY PARTY. WE NEED TO FIND CHUCK AND THAT OTHER PROFESSOR GUY.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA, ROTOR, HOLD YOUR AIRBOARD STEADY.


STICK WITH SAL AND ROTE. I NEED TO MOVE FAST.
HMPH! FINE!
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT LAST TURN DID US A FAVOR AND GOT RID OF THE BADNIKS!
STILL--WE'RE PLAYING IT SAFE! I'LL STAY ON MY AIR-BOARD AND ACT AS YOUR SAFETY NET!
I'LL WEAKEN THE HATCH WITH MY OMNI-TOOL! THEN AMY CAN BUST IT OPEN!
KAY! MAN-- I HOPE BUNNIE AND THE OTHERS ARE HAVING AN EASIER TIME!


CLANK!
THE PROFESSORS BETTER BE IN THIS CAR...
KA-THUNK!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW.
NICOLE SAID ALL THE PASSAGES BETWEEN CARS WERE LOCKED DOWN. MAYBE THE STRAIN IS STARTING TO TEAR THE TRAIN APART?
C'MON, PROFESSORS! C'MON, NO BADNIKS!
KLANG!
UNCLE CHUCK! FINALLY!
SONNY-BOY! I KNEW YOU'D COME FOR US!
HMM? ARE YOU THE PORTER?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I AM QUITE DISPLEASED WITH THE SERVICE ON THIS TRAIN. I WILL HAVE A CUCUMBER SANDWICH POST-HASTE, IF YOU PLEASE!


HANG TIGHT, BRAINIACS. I'LL FIGURE OUT THE BEST WAY TO BUST YOU OUT.
HURRY, SONIC!
I KNOW, I KNOW. THIS TRAIN IS OUT OF CONTROL.
NO, I--WELL, YES, THAT. BUT IT'S ABOUT THE PLANET! DILLON'S RESEARCH--THE GAS SAMPLES I WAS TAKING IN WOOD ZONE*--THEY ALL TIE TOGETHER INTO SOMETHING BIGGER!
*STH VOL. 1 GN.
SERIOUSLY? THE WORLD SHATTERING APART ISN'T COMPLICATED ENOUGH?
KA-THUNK!
AH! THAT MUST BE THE LUNCH CART.
KA-THUNK!
CLANG!



TO BE CONTINUED...

INTERVIEW WITH - RICK BRYANT - INKER -

RICK BRYANT
SONIC BOOM INKER EXTRAORDINAIRE

SSSM: Rick, you've been involved with quite a few Archie projects leading up to the Sonic Boom series! How did you get started at Archie?

RB: I received a phone call from the past. Paul Kaminski had remembered me from many years ago at a Convention. He wanted to know if I was available to do any inking as he liked my illustrative approach to that. (As seen in my Fantasy portfolios). I was and started with the second issue of the new *Mega Man*. Unfortunately, I was offered the chance to ink an outside project and really wanted to do it. Paul was very understanding. After that stint he gave me all kinds of work doing covers, single page fill-ins on the *Mega Man* and *Sonic* titles. I was happy when he approached me with this *Sonic Boom* project and here I am!

SSSM: In addition to previous Archie Sonic projects, you're also a team player on the all-new monthly comic series, *Sonic Boom* – what can you tell us about inking that first issue? Any notable moments?

RB: Right off the top… inking the four variant covers that make up the first issue of *Sonic Boom*. Evan Stanley just did a wonderful job with the pencils and for some reason I changed up my inking style and went a bit more illustrative and textured with the brush… and I really was hoping it would be at least OK. I loved it! Happily all was good with Archie!

READY, STEADY, GO!
THE INK PROCESS IS A JOB OF PATIENCE AND EXACTNESS. RICK SHOWS US HIS WORK-IN-PROGRESS OF THE 4 CONNECTING VARIANTS FOR SONIC BOOM #1

SSSM: What is it about inking comic books that made you want to go professional?

RB: Hard to put into words… but I can say it was a place I thought I could attain some of my goals in life. It helped that I discovered how to get in touch with the top illustrators of the day… so a fast move to New York City from Santa Cruz, California got my foot in the door. I did what I could to learn and practice. It paid off. And it was time to stop doing background inking for others…

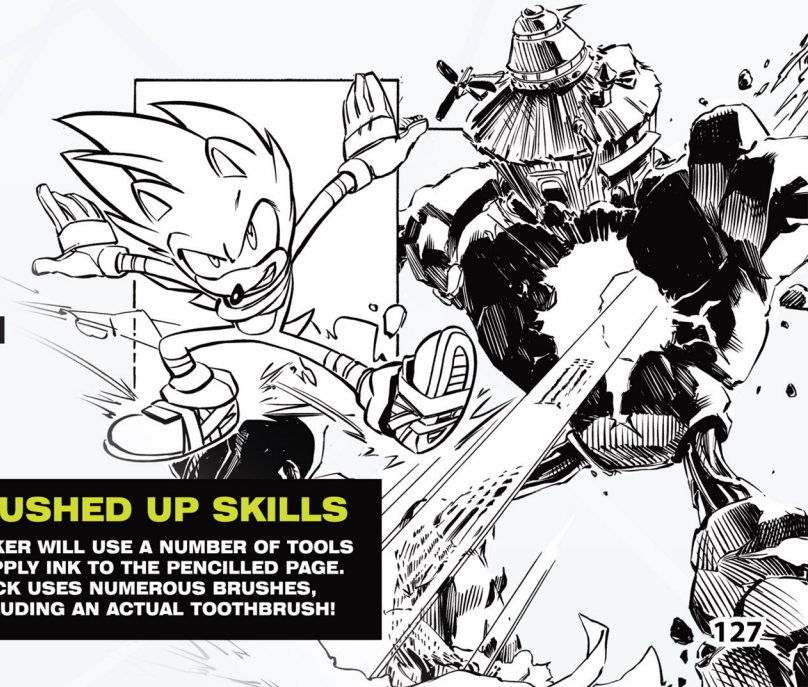
STICKING TO IT

RICK NOT ONLY INKS THE INTERIOR PAGES BUT WILL ALSO LEND HIS SKILL FOR SOME OF THE COVERS! HERE ARE THE INKS FOR THE VARIANT FOR SONIC BOOM ISSUE 4

SSSM: Do you have any favorite/notable moments from any of your past Archie Sonic projects? What advice do you have for any aspiring inkers out there?

RB: The first time inking a new penciller is always fun. It is new territory.

Look for art. Not just comic book art. Look to master illustrators of the past for inspiration and instruction. Life drawing and anatomy. Photo reference as needed. But none of that matters if you do not study and practice… A LOT! If you can work at an agency or comic art studio or apprentice with a working professional… that can help. And take advice and critique from others. It may well sting but you can ignore what you want and learn from what you think is valid. That alone can advance your learning curve. ■



BRUSHED UP SKILLS

AN INKER WILL USE A NUMBER OF TOOLS TO APPLY INK TO THE PENCILLED PAGE. RICK USES NUMEROUS BRUSHES, INCLUDING AN ACTUAL TOOTHBRUSH!